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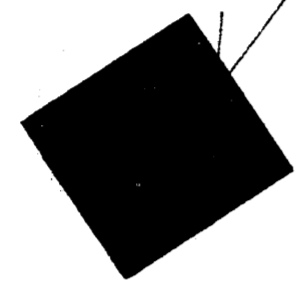
F.O.
371

1947

PALESTINE

File No. 46

pp. 5358 - 5928



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Reference:

FO 371 / 61781

CLOSED
UNTIL
1978

61781

417

1947

E

E 5358
21 JUN

2

PALESTINE

Registry Number

E 5358/46/31

FROM

P.R.

No.

111 Stokes

Dated

18 June

Received in Registry

21 -

Closing of Jewish Agency.
Articles - asked diff. articles in view of
disturbed intentions of Jews to use force in
imposing illegal immigration into Palestine.
Le well now take steps to close down the
Jewish Agency. Mr. Brock Jones did
not think occasion called for such action.

Last Paper.

5269

(Minutes.)

H.B. 23/6

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

61781

(Action completed.)

G.E.H. 23/6

(Index.)

3/2/48

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Reference: FO 371 / 61781

LABOUR

K 3

Parliamentary Question

Lab.

* 40. Mr. Stokes,—To ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies, whether, in view of the declared intentions of the Jews to use force in imposing illegal immigration into Palestine, he will now take steps to close down the Jewish Agency. [~~Thursday 11th~~ June.]

[~~WEDNESDAY 11TH~~
[WEDNESDAY 18TH]

Ipswich

F.O. ARE NOT ASKED TO ADVISE.

ANSWERED 18 JUN 1947
REF. [unclear]

*Plc attach reply
JB May 29*

E 5358
21 JUN

2005/6

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Reference: **FO 371** / 61781

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Jewish Agency

37. **Mr. Stokes** asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether, in view of the declared intentions of the Jews to use force in imposing illegal immigration into Palestine, he will now take steps to close down the Jewish Agency.

Mr. Creech Jones: My hon. Friend is no doubt referring to a resolution passed by the Elected Assembly of the Jewish Community in Palestine on 22nd May, declaring that the Jewish Community is prepared to use force for the protection of immigration, land settlement, and its own security. I regret the terms of this resolution, particularly in present circumstances. I do not consider that the occasion calls for such action as my hon. Friend suggests against the Jewish Agency.

Mr. Stokes: Does not my right hon. Friend recollect that many of the responsible members of the Jewish Agency were directly involved in the St. David's incident, as illustrated in the White

Paper; and how does he tie that up with the present threat to the Arabs which he gave in this House last week not to give any incitement to violence or strong measures would be taken? Why not take equally strong measures against the Jews?

Mr. Creech Jones: I think it must be obvious to everyone that law and order must be preserved in Palestine and terrorism must be repressed, but in view of the special commitments of the Jewish Agency under the Mandate there is no action at present which can in any way be taken for suppressing the Agency.

Mr. Stokes: I know, but does my right hon. Friend realise that the Arabs do not recognise the Mandate for a moment?

Mr. Blackburn: While I accept the Minister's answer, will he indicate that if any individuals in this country advocate violence in Palestine, as has been recently done in America, they will be prosecuted with the full rigour of the law?

Mr. Creech Jones: That is not a matter for me but for the Home Office.

RECEIVED IN C.B.
20 JUN 1947
SENT TO DEPT.
23 JUN 1947

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419

1947

E

E 5359

PALESTINE

21 JUN

5

Registry Number

E 5359/26/31

FROM

Women's International League

No.

Dated

Received in Registry

21 June

Women's International League, Resolutions.

Set of resolution passed 26 March. embracing decision of W.I.L.G. to refer settlement of Palestine question to 16 United Nations, and trusting that every effort will be made to have same considered earlier than September.

Last Paper.

5358

References.

(Minutes.)

Please acknowledge, unless this has been done on the F paper.

M.B. 23/6

(Print.)

In P.P. E. Hayward 18/9

M.B. 26

(How disposed of.)

Ack'd by F. Dis. F 8419/905/61.

(Action completed.)

J.C. 24/6

(Index)

3/1/48

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Reference: FO 371 / 61781

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W.C. letter from Women's Int.
League of - April 3. entered F

Resolution passed at the Annual Council Meeting of the Women's
International League, at Elfinward, Haywards Heath, March
26th to March 29th, 1947:-

PALESTINE.

E 5359
21 JUN

6

This Annual Council of the Women's International League
welcomes the decision of His Majesty's Government to refer
the settlement of the Palestine question to the United
Nations, and trusts that every effort will be made to have it
considered earlier than September.

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Reference: FO 371 / 61781

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE

British Section of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom

INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT :
Miss Emily Greene Balch

PRESIDENT :

• Mrs. Duncan Harris

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE :

Chairman : Mrs. Mignon Castle

Vice-Chairmen :

Mrs. Ballinger Miss Agatha Harrison Mrs. McGregor Wood

Miss Mosa Anderson
Mrs. Bedford
Mrs. Brayshaw
Miss Hilda Burton
Miss Maud Dickinson
Miss Edith Hayler
Mrs. Ineson

Mrs. C. M. Kemp
Mrs. Malcomson
Mrs. McGregor Ross
Mrs. Mary Nuttall
Mrs. Mary Phillips
Mrs. de Swiet
Miss Myrtle Wright

HON. TREASURER : Mrs. Stapledon
HON. ORGANISERS : Mrs. Grindley and Miss Alice Hyde
HON. PRESS SECRETARY : Miss Amy Haughton

VICE-PRESIDENTS :

Miss Vera Brittain
Mrs. de Bunsen
The Hon. Mrs. Franklin

Mrs. K. E. Innes
Lady Pethick Lawrence
Miss Edith Pye
Lady Unwin

Organising Secretary : Miss E. HAYWARD

104 SOUTHAMPTON ROW,

LONDON, W.C.1

Telephone: CHAncery 7233

18th September 1947.

5359/46 / 31

24 SEP 1947

The Rt. Hon. Ernest Bevin, M.P.,
Foreign Office,
Downing Street, S.W.1.

Sir,

We enclose for your information a copy of
a letter we have to-day addressed to the Prime Minister.

Yours faithfully,

Ethel Hayward

Organising Secretary.

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Reference:

FO 371

61781

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WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE

British Section of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom

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INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT :
Miss Emily Greene Balch

PRESIDENT :

Mrs. Duncan Harris

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE :

Chairman : Mrs. Mignon Castle

Vice-Chairmen :

Mrs. Ballinger Miss Agatha Harrison Mrs. McGregor Wood

Miss Mosa Anderson

Mrs. Bedford

Mrs. Brayshaw

Miss Hilda Burton

Miss Maud Dickinson

Miss Edith Hayler

Mrs. Ineson

Mrs. C. M. Kemp

Mrs. Malcomson

Mrs. McGregor Ross

Mrs. Mary Nuttall

Mrs. Mary Phillips

Mrs. de Swiet

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Miss Vera Brittain

Mrs. de Bunsen

The Hon. Mrs. Franklin

Lady Unwin

Mrs. K. E. Innes

Lady Pethick Lawrence

Miss Edith Pye

Organising Secretary : Miss E. HAYWARD

104 SOUTHAMPTON ROW,

LONDON, W.C.1

Telephone: CHAncery 7233

HON. TREASURER : Mrs. Stapledon

HON. ORGANISERS : Mrs. Grindley and Miss Alice Hyde

HON. PRESS SECRETARY : Miss Amy Haughton

Copy for information.

18th September 1947.

The Right Hon. C. R. Attlee, M.P.,
House of Commons
London, S. W. 1.

Sir,

The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (British Section) views with deep concern and strong disapproval the action of His Majesty's Government in choosing Germany, the land of greatest tragedy for the Jews, as the destination of the three emigrant ships carrying refugee Jews from France.

We feel that this will be the cause of unnecessary suffering for them, and of bitterness and hatred against our own nation.

We urge His Majesty's Government to give the strongest possible support to the recommendation included in the report of the United Nations Palestine Inquiry Committee, to be presented to the General Assembly of the United Nations, that the alleviation of the plight of 250,000 Jewish refugees now gathered in European assembly centres is of extreme urgency and shall be undertaken by immediate international action.

I am, Sir,

Yours faithfully,

(signed) E.F. Ineson,

Hon. Secretary.

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1947

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E 5300 9

PALESTINE

21 JUN

Registry Number

E5300/4/51

FROM

P. R.

No.

M. Stokes

Dated

Received in Registry

18, June 48

The Balfour Declaration.
M. Stokes to Mr. J. P. ... whether he will publish the complete letter from Lord Balfour to Mr. Rothschild embodying the Balfour Declaration. Mr. McNeill. Letter received wide publicity shortly afterwards it was issued and given in full in a number of standard works of reference on the Palestine Question.

Last Paper.

5359

(Minutes.)

H.B. 23/16

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Action completed.)

PP 4/1
46/23/6

(Index.)

3/1/48

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E 5360

10

Parliamentary Question

* 57. Mr. Stokes.—To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, whether he will publish the complete letter from Lord Balfour to Mr. Rothschild embodying the Balfour Declaration. [Wednesday 18th June.]

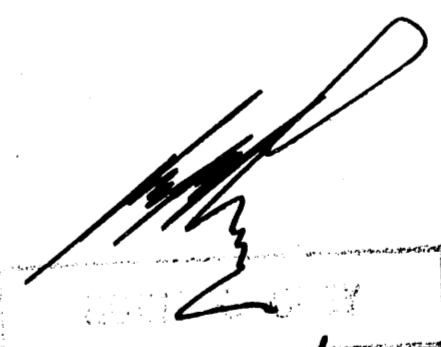
Lab.

Ipswich.

ANSWERED 18 JUN 1947
REPLY ANSWERED.

The letter was not published as a White Paper at the time but it received almost world-wide publicity shortly after it was issued. No work on Palestine and Zionism is complete without the text (e.g. Scholes's "History of Zionism") and it can be found in a number of works of reference (e.g. the Encyclopaedia Britannica under "Zionism").

I suggest that the reply should point out that the text of the letter from the Balfour (as he was then) to Lord Rothschild ~~is to~~ be found at pages 16-17 of the Report of the Palestine Royal Commission (Cmd 5479, copy attached)


14/6

I submit a draft reply.

J.H.S. Beith
June 16
(BEITH)

Perran M Beith
17/6 17/6

Longman
17/6

2004/5

1947
PARLIAMENTS

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PALESTINE
Balfour Declaration
(Letter)

10. **Mr. Stokes** asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he will publish the complete letter from Lord Balfour to Mr. Rothschild embodying the Balfour Declaration.

Mr. McNeil: The letter to which my hon. Friend refers received wide publicity shortly after it was issued and is given in full in a number of standard works of reference on the Palestine question.

Mr. Stokes: Can my right hon. Friend give the date of the letter? Is he aware that his reply will cause a great deal of satisfaction among those people who believe that the whole of this thing was bogus and formed part of a much more comprehensive letter from Mr. Balfour?

Earl Winterton: If the right hon. Gentleman is thinking of republishing the letter, will he also publish the correspondence, some of it confidential, between various high officials and the late

King Hussein in order that the public may have an opportunity of understanding the unwisdom of the Government of the time in giving two contradictory statements?

Mr. McNeil: It is not the usual custom of this House to print documents which are easily available, and interested people, I am certain, can find the letter in a number of publications. The one in which I saw it was the "Encyclopædia Britannica."

Mr. Janner: Will my right hon. Friend confirm that when this letter was published it stated clearly that it was a declaration of sympathy with Jewish Zionist aspirations, submitted to and approved by the Cabinet, and will he be good enough to tell us, so that there may be no doubt in future, what were these documents and submissions?

Mr. McNeil: While I cannot be drawn into a controversy by way of saying "Yes" or "No," the letter went on to discuss certain other interests which must be safeguarded.

RECEIVED IN DEPT.
20 JUN 1947
SENT TO DEPT.
23 JUN 1947

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DRAFT REPLY

The letter to which my Honourable Friend refers received wide publicity shortly after it was issued and is given in full in a number of standard works of reference on the Palestine question. The text is for example to be found on pages 16 and 17 of the Report of the Royal Commission on Palestine of July, 1937, and in the Encyclopaedia Britannica under "Zionism".

*Ans
June 19*

Supplemental ①

② in Palestine at a Nation's Home

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Reference:

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DRAFT REPLY

to
P.Q. No. 57.
June 18th.
Mr. Stokes.

The letter to which my honourable
Friend refers received ~~a very~~ wide
publicity ^{shortly after it was issued} ~~at the time of its issue~~ and
is given in full in a number of standard
works of reference on the Palestine
question. The text is ^{for example} to be found on
pages 16 and 17 of the Report of the Royal
Commission on Palestine of July 1937, and
~~is to be found~~ in the Encyclopaedia
Britannica under "Zionism".

cmg 2/17/6
MB
17/6

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E 5364

1947

PALESTINE

21 JUN

11A

Registry Number

E 5364/22/31

FROM

M. H. Bey.

No.

of M. David.

Dated

Received in Registry

Feb. 2.

Final 23.

'The Zionism'
Each copy of booklet entitled 'The Zionism' giving anti Jewish views.

Last Paper.

15360

(Minutes.)

References.

Research Dept. FO.
Suggest that library might like to keep HB. 23/16
this document. While of no great value in itself, it contains references to other works which might be useful. Substantive
(A.S. BUCKMASTER). 15/7

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8/P.O.

June 23

Printer's Library (to keep if ^{enclosure} useful desired)

HB. 19/7

(Action completed.)

1/2/47

(Index.)

3/4/48

Next Paper.

E 5400

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Reference: FO 371 / 61781

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1-47

E

E 5400

15

PALESTINE

23 JUN

Registry Number

E 5400/46/31

FROM

N. ZILBERMAN

No.

Soviet Embassy

Dated

47- August

Received in Registry

to Sir O. Tugend

18 June

23 -

social film "The Peoples Front"
like for a day, with regard to reason why
social film "The Peoples Front" was
prohibited in Palestine by Bureau of
Propaganda film was purchased by firm
"Josephson" for presentation in Palestine and
transferred.

Last Paper.

5364

References.

7279/46

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

1 pt. Kroppend Land.
from Sir O. Tugend.
June 24

(Action completed)

20/6
JCM 24/6

(Index.)

23/6/48

Next Paper.

E 5455

(Minutes.)

Drugs to Mr. Trafford Smith, C.O.

WMM 24/6

In P.P. W.O.B. Abulkeson to G.F. Greenwood 27/6.
75948/47.

b.v. 29/7

C.O. will send a reminder

b.v. 5/8

C.O. reminded

b.v. 29/8

W.B. 30/6

W.B. 21/7

W.B. 6/8

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E 5400
23 JUN

Entered

16

18th June, 1947.

No. 77-A.

Dear Sir Orme,

In April 1947 the Bureau of Censorship of the Office of the High Commissioner in Palestine prohibited the demonstration in Palestine of a Soviet documentary film "The Peoples' Trial" (Nuremberg trials). This film was sold by Soviet organisations to a Palestine provincial firm "Jairfilm" for presentation in Palestine and Transjordan.

I am instructed to ask you to enquire into the reasons which caused the forbiddance of the show of this film in Palestine.

I will be grateful for your reply on this matter.

Yours sincerely
Zaroubin
N. ZAROUBIN

Sir Orme Garton Sargent, K.C.M.G., C.B., K.C.B.,
Foreign Office, S.W.I.

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Draft

OUT FILE

17

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

24th June, 1947.

sent
✓ *24/6*
E 5400/46/31

I enclose a copy of a letter we have received from the Soviet Ambassador on the subject of a film alleged to have been banned in Palestine.

I should be grateful if you would obtain the information necessary for answering this letter from the Palestine Government, asking them for an early reply.

(Signed) C.W. Baxter

T. Smith, Esq.,
COLONIAL OFFICE.

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Reference:-

FO 371 / 61781

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E 5400 / 46 / 31

75978/47.

30 JUN 1947

Colonial Office,
Downing Street,
S.W.1.

27th June, 1947.

Dear Grimwood

The Soviet Ambassador in London has recently asked Sir Orme Gordon Sargent of the Foreign Office what were the reasons which led the Palestine Government to prohibit the showing in Palestine of a Soviet documentary film "The Peoples' Trial". The Soviet Ambassador states that this film was sold by Soviet organisations to a Palestine provincial firm "Jairfilm" for presentation in Palestine and Transjordan.

We should be grateful if you could let us have, by telegram, information enabling us to reply to the Soviet Ambassador.

Yours Sincerely
Sgt W A C Matheson

Colonial Office Reference No. 75978/47
W. A. C. Matheson
27. 6. 47.
Reference E 5400 / 46 / 31

G.G. GRIMWOOD, ESQ.

*Keep with pp
100/27/6*

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E 5455

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1947

PALESTINE

24 JUN

Registry Number

E 5455/24/31

FROM

611

No.

Command

Dated

Received in Registry

24 June

Palestine, Civil Committee.

Palestine tel 1191 of June 23. Forwarded text of letter Committee have received from relatives of 3 condemned Jews sentenced to death 16 June, also text of reply, stating that Committee could not interfere with functions of Judicial Administration of Palestine.

Last Paper.

57400

(Minutes.)

Now see E 5468

References.

H.B. 24/6

In P.P.	P'stine tel	1192	23/6.
—	"	1213	24/6
—	"	1218	25/6

(Print.)

H.B. 17/6

In P.P.	60-tel	1384	26/6.
—	"	1385	27/6.
—	P'stine	1246	29/6.

(How disposed of.)

H.B. 27/7

(Action completed.)

J.C. 2/7

(Index.)

3/11/46

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Reference: **FO 371** / 61781

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Ent

INWARD TELEGRAM

En Clair

FROM PALESTINE (Gen. Sir A. Cunningham)

TO S. OF S., COLONIES.

D. 23rd June, 1947.

R. 23rd " " 04.15 hrs.

IMMEDIATE
No. 1191

Addressed to S. of S:
Repeated to Washington, No. 1191 for Sir Alexander
Cadogan.

The following press release has been made by UNSCOP
tonight.

My immediately following telegram refers. Begins.
United Nations Special Committee on Palestine.

Issued by the Information Officer, UNSCOP, Jerusalem
22nd June, 1947 press release No. 17.

At today's meeting, the Committee had before it a
letter addressed to its Chairman by the relatives of the three
men on whom sentence of death was passed by the Military Court
of Jerusalem on 16th June 1947 asking the Chairman to use his
good offices with the Government and Military authorities of
Palestine to procure commutation of these sentences.

The Committee passed the following resolution:-

"In view of the fact that the majority of the members of the
Committee have expressed concern as to the possible unfavourable
repercussions that execution of the three death sentences
pronounced by the Military Court of Jerusalem on June 16th,
the day on which the Committee held its first meeting in
Jerusalem, might have upon the fulfilment of the task with which
the general assembly has entrusted the Committee; and considering
the opinion of such members as to the scope of the resolution
on the Palestine question, adopted on May 15th 1947 by the
/general:

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RECEIVED IN C.B.

23 JUN 1947

SENT TO DEP.

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general assembly (Documents A/309, resolution 2); the Committee resolves that the Chairman communicate to the Secretary General of the United Nations a copy of this resolution and of the letter received from the relatives of the condemned persons for transmission to the Mandatory Power".

The Committee approved the following reply to the relatives of the three men sentenced:-

"On behalf of the Special Committee on Palestine, I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 17th June 1947 addressed to me as Chairman, concerning the three young men who had been convicted and sentenced to death by the Military Court of Jerusalem on 16th June.

On grounds relating to the circumstances of the case and the personal conditions of the condemned, you request the Committee to use its good offices with the Government and Military authorities to prevent the execution of the youths by procuring a commutation of the death sentence passed upon them.

Your letter has been called to the attention of the Committee which has considered it with full appreciation of your anguish.

I am authorised by the Committee to tell you that it is beyond the scope of the Committee's instruction and function to interfere with the judicial administration in Palestine; but having regard in the circumstances to the task of the Committee, the matter is being brought to the attention of the proper authorities". Ends.

Copies sent to:-

Foreign Office - Mr. Baxter.
" " - Mr. Beeley.
War Office (M.O.4) - Major Charteris.

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Reference:-

FO 371 / 61781

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INWARD TELEGRAM

22 ISA

545 46/71

Keep with pp

lmf 26/6

AMENDED COPY (Amendment underlined)
Cypher (C.T.P.)

FROM PALESTINE (General Sir A. Cunningham)

TO S. OF S., COLONIES.

D. 23rd June, 1947.

R. 23rd " " 10.30 hrs.

INDEXED

IMMEDIATE

No. 1192 Top Secret and Personal.

Addressed S. of S.
Repeated Washington No. 145 for Sir Alexander Cadogan.

UNSCOP (~~have~~ tonight) released to the press a Resolution on the question of the men condemned to death on Monday last by Military Court and the text of a letter addressed to the parents in reply to the petition made to the Committee to intervene in this question. The Chairman came to see me on Friday evening on this matter. I explained to him the constitutional position and told him that the cases were still in the hands of the G.O.C. who had not yet confirmed the sentences. I told him that, in my position, it would be most improper for me to discuss these cases which were still sub judice of Military Authorities but, in the event of them coming to my notice, I would of course take what he said into consideration. I pointed out to him that I could not accept that the Norwegian Resolution was intended to apply to those who broke the law, he said that he had not any desire to contend this. The Chairman said that what they feared was that, if sentences were carried out, conditions would be created which would handicap them in their task. I pointed out to him that this would not naturally follow, even if sentences were carried out, and that the Jews were in the mass against terrorists, but in their nature always intervened to protect a Jew no matter what he had done, even if the sentences were carried out I would not expect serious repercussions. I further pointed out to him that dissentient groups themselves had flouted the Norwegian Resolution and that, since its being adopted, there had been 34 incidents resulting in/

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in thousands of pounds worth of damage, three lives lost and fourteen wounded. There is, however, no doubt that anti British element in the Committee has been using the coincidence of these sentences with the Committee's arrival to stir up trouble against the Mandatory. It is unfortunate that, due to legal difficulties, the Military Courts were unable to pronounce sentence before the Committee arrived. When it was apparent that they could not do so, I asked the G.O.C. to see that the sentences were not announced on any day of the Committee's arrival, but it did not seem proper to delay their publication later than Monday which was after the arrival of all of Committee. The fact that they were holding meeting that day was quite fortuitous and not previously arranged. I must protest with all the vigour at my command against attempted interference in a case which is still sub judice under the laws of this country. I further protest against an action which cannot but give dissentient groups a status towards which they have been striving, but which has never been previously accorded to them. These groups are looked on as outcasts by their own people and that they should be given any recognition by an international body must not be only abhorrent to the greater number of Jews in this country, but will also tend to drive still more misguided youths into their ranks. As the Resolution has been sent to the Secretary General, I assume that further action in this matter will be taken in London. The G.O.C. is still considering the cases which I have not as yet seen.

*** Correction obtained 24th June.**

Distributed to:-

MS.25
Secretary of State
Sir T. Lloyd
Mr. I. Thomas
Mr. Martin
Mr. Gutch
Mr. Trafford Smith
Mr. Mathieson
Mr. Higham
Mr. Bennett
Mr. Eastwood
Mr. Bigg
Miss Boyd
Foreign Office
" "

Mr. Dale

War Office (H.O.4.)

- Mr. G.W. Baxter.
- Mr. H. Bealey.
- Major Charteris.

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Reference:-					
FO 371					
61781					

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INWARD TELEGRAM

E 5454/46/21

16A
2H

AMENDED COPY (Amendment underlined)
Cypher (O.T.P.)

INDEXED

FROM PALESTINE (General Sir A. Cunningham)

TO S. OF S., COLONIES.

D. 24th June, 1947.
R. 25th " " 00.45 hrs.

IMMEDIATE
No.1213 Top Secret.

INDEXED

The Chief Secretary's letter of yesterday to UNSCOP stating that the death sentences on three Jewish terrorists were still sub judice was misrepresented in the Jewish press here and, I believe, in some American papers, as a "rebuke" to the Committee. From a conversation between Hoo (official position of Hoo is that of personal representative of Secretary General to U.N.S.C.O.P.) and the G.O.C. last night, it would appear that several Members had not known the true position and would not have voted for the resolution had they known it. I should perhaps say, in case press distortions reach you, that personal relations between the Committee and the Government remain quite normal.

z Correction received 26.6.47.

Distributed to:-

MS. 25	Mr. Mathieson
Secretary of State	Mr. Higham
Sir T. Lloyd	Mr. Bennett
Mr. I. Thomas	Mr. Eastwood
Mr. Martin	Mr. Bigg
Mr. Gutch	Miss Boyd
Mr. Trafford Smith	Mr. Dale
Foreign Office	- Mr. C.W. Baxter.
" "	- Mr. H. Bealey.
War Office (M.O. 4.)	- Lt. Col. J.G. Atkinson.

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INWARD TELEGRAM

15 25
Entered

EM

Cypher (O.T.P.)

FROM PALESTINE (General Sir A. Cunningham)

TO S. OF S., COLONIES.

D. 24th June, 1947.

R. 25th " " 00.45 hrs.

IMMEDIATE

No.1213 Top Secret.

The Chief Secretary's letter of yesterday to UNSCOP stating that the death sentences on three Jewish terrorists were still sub judice was misrepresented in the Jewish press here and, I believe, in some American papers, as a "rebuke" to the Committee. From a conversation between H.M.G. and the G.O.C. last night, it would appear that several Members had not known the true position and would not have voted for the resolution had they known it. I should perhaps say, in case press distortions reach you, that personal relations between the Committee and the Government remain quite normal.

Distributed to:-

MS. 25
Secretary of State
Sir T. Lloyd
Mr. I. Thomas
Mr. Martin
Mr. Gutch
Mr. Trafford Smith
Mr. Mathieson
Mr. Higham
Mr. Bennett
Mr. Eastwood
Mr. Bigg
Miss Boyd
Mr. Dale
Foreign Office
" "
War Office (M.O.4.)

- Mr. C.W. Baxter.
- Mr. H. Beeley.
- Major Charteris.

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61781

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INWARD TELEGRAM

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E-487 46 21
30 JUN 1947

INDEXED

Cypher (O.T.P.)

FROM PALESTINE (General Sir A. Cunningham)

TO S. OF S., COLONIES.

D. 25th June, 1947.

R. 25th " " 19.15 hrs.

IMMEDIATE

No. 1219 Top Secret.

Following for Martin from MacGillivray.

You may like to know that the Chief Secretary's letter of 23rd June to the Committee regarding the death sentences (see High Commissioner's telegram No. 1195) does not appear to have affected the cordial relations existing between Government Officers and members of the Committee. The Chairman, when dining with the G.O.C. on Monday night, stated that the Committee had not appreciated that the case was still sub judice.

2. Chairman and Hoo spent last night in Tel Aviv and there are indications that they made contact this morning with Irgun Zvai Leumi.

Distributed to:-

MS. 25	Mr. Mathieson
Secretary of State	Mr. Hignam
Sir T. Lloyd	Mr. Bennett
Mr. I. Thomas	Mr. Eastwood
Mr. Martin	Mr. Bigg
Mr. Gutch	Mr. Dale
Mr. Trafford Smith	Miss Boyd
Foreign Office	Mr. C.W. Baxter.
" "	Mr. H. Beeley.

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OUTWARD TELEGRAM

15

75156/160/47

Cypher (O.F.P.)

Enter

27

TO PALESTINE (Gen. Sir A. Cunningham) INDEXED
FROM S. OF S. COLONIES.

Sent 26th June, 1947. 20.15 hrs.

IMMEDIATE

No. 1384 Top Secret.

5457/46/21

Your telegram No. 1192.

UNSCOP Resolution.

E 52408/20/31

I fully endorse the attitude you have adopted in your discussion of this matter with the Chairman. The text of the resolution has now been formally received through the United Nations channel by the Foreign Office (New York telegram No. 1685 repeated to you refers). His Majesty's Government have meanwhile been considering what attitude they are to adopt, and have provisionally decided on a reply on the lines of the draft contained in my immediately following telegram. This draft has been prepared on the assumption that when it is sent the sentences will still not have been confirmed by the General Officer Commanding. If however confirmation has by that time been given, the draft can be suitably amended. Please deal with this point in your reply.

2. The situation may arise in which sentences have been confirmed by the General Officer Commanding and you are called upon to decide on the next step before His Majesty's Government's reply to the Secretary General's communication has been delivered. In those circumstances I should not wish to interfere in any way with your discretion in deciding whether or not to intervene.

/3.

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Reference: **FO 371** / 61781

28

3. It may help you to know that rule 81 of the rules of procedure of the Trusteeship Council precludes the admissibility before the Council of petitions directed against judgments of competent courts of the administering authority. Owing to the exceptional position of Palestine and the special conditions of the appointment of the Committee it is not proposed to cite this rule in analogy in replying to the Secretary General. It does however provide an argument which might be used if necessary at a later stage should controversy continue.

4. I should welcome your early comments on the draft in my immediately following telegram. Please reply by Monday at latest as it is desired to refer to reply to Secretary General in answering a Parliamentary Question on this subject on 2nd July.

5. This telegram and my immediately succeeding telegram are being repeated to Sir A. Cadogan in New York.

Distributed to:-

M.S. 25
Secretary of State
Sir T. Lloyd
Mr. I. Thomas
Mr. Martin
Mr. Gutch
Mr. Trafford Smith
Mr. Mathieson
Mr. Higham
Mr. Bennett
Mr. Eastwood
Mr. Bigg
Mr. Dale
Miss Boyd
Foreign Office
" "
War Office (M.O. 4.)

- Mr. C.W. Baxter.
- Mr. H. Beeley.
- Major Charteris.

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FO 371 / 61781

OUTWARD TELEGRAM

75156/160/47

Cypher (O.T.P.)

TO PALESTINE (Gen. Sir A. Cunningham)

FROM S. OF S., COLONIES.

Sent 27th June, 1947. 00.30 hrs.

IMMEDIATE

No. 1385 Top Secret.

My immediately preceding telegram regarding UNSCOP resolution. Following is text of proposed reply. Begins.

His Majesty's Government have received and taken note of the resolution passed by the United Nations Special Committee on Palestine on the 22nd June in regard to the three death sentences pronounced by the Military Court in Jerusalem on 16th June.

2. As the Committee have already been informed by the Palestine Authorities, the death sentences in question have not yet been confirmed by the General Officer Commanding under Regulations 47 and 48 of Palestine Defence (Emergency) Regulations 1945, and are, therefore, still sub judice. If the sentences are confirmed by the General Officer Commanding, it will then be open to the High Commissioner for Palestine to exercise, if he thinks fit, the Royal Prerogative of Pardon delegated to him by His Majesty. It is the invariable practice of His Majesty's Government not to interfere with the High Commissioner's discretion whether or not to exercise this Prerogative.

3. As regards the resolution on the Palestine question adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 15th May, to which the Committee refers, His Majesty's Government interpret this resolution as applying to action calculated to disturb the peace in Palestine; they cannot admit its relevance to the normal processes of the administration of justice there.

/4.

5457 46 71
- 3 JUL 1947

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Reference: FO 371 / 61781

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4. His Majesty's Government have informed the High Commissioner for Palestine of the contents of the Secretary General's communication of the 23rd June to His Majesty's Government and of the terms of their reply. Ends.

Distributed to:-

M.S. 25
Secretary of State

Sir T. Lloyd

Mr. I. Thomas

Mr. Martin

Mr. Gutch

Mr. Trafford Smith

Mr. Mathieson

Mr. Higham

Mr. Bennett

Mr. Eastwood

Mr. Bigg

Mr. Dale

Miss Boyd

Foreign Office

War Office (M.O. 4.)

Mr. C. W. Baxter

Mr. H. Bealey

Major Charteris

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INWARD TELEGRAM

5455 46 21
- 3 JUL 1947

14 31
Enter

Cypher (O.T.P.)

FROM PALESTINE (General Sir A. Cunningham)

TO S. OF S., COLONIES.

D. 29th June, 1947.
R. 29th " " 18.10 hrs.

No.1246 Top Secret.

My telegram No.1219.

Following for Martin from MacGillivray. Begins:-

Although the movements of Sandstrom and Hoo on the night of 24th June in Tel Aviv were suggestively furtive, there is nothing to substantiate the assumption that contact was made with terrorist organisations. Press report that there was such contact evoked flat denial by the Committee's Information Officer.

Distributed to:-

MS.25	Mr. Mathisson
Secretary of State	Mr. Higham
Sir T. Lloyd	Mr. Bennett
Mr. I. Thomas	Mr. Eastwood
Mr. Martin	Mr. Bigg
Mr. Gutch	Miss Boyd
Mr. Trafford Smith	
Foreign Office	- Mr. C.W. Baxter.
" "	- Mr. H. Bealey.

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463

E

E 5468

32

PALESTINE

24 JUN

Registry Number } E 5468/46/31

TELEGRAM FROM

No. U.K. Del.
Dated New York.
Received in Registry } 1855
23 Serial
24

Political: Special Committee.

Transmit copy of telegram from President of Special Committee to Sir Gen. U.K. at request of Sir Gen. giving list of resolutions by Committee after receipt of letter from relative of S. Goodman and Jewish deposits also given list of letter received.

Last Paper.

5455

(Minutes.)

References

E. 5455/46/31.

Two C.O. drafts attached. They were prepared in the Palestine Department (who consulted me about them), and have still to be passed at higher levels.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

Tel) U.K. Del. New York.
1845
26 June.

Mr. Barker
U.N. (P.) Dept.

H.B. Bealey 24/6

W. J. Foster 24/6

Tels sent to New York.

Tel) U.K. Del. New York.
1846
26 June.

H.B. 29/6

Tel, New York.
1862.
28 June

In P.P. Press Release PAK/53 7/7
Political 15 PANNONS 6/7.

H.B. 14/7

(Action completed.)

[Signature]

(Index.)

[Signature]
3/7/48

Next Paper.

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Bagdad 558
Belgrade 1389
Fedda 275
Prague 740
Beirut 412.
H/C India
Damascus 339
Tehran 507
Amman 272
Lima 161
Hank Kohn 507
Guatemala 79
Montevideo 101
July 1.

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Minutes

34

Eastern Dept
Mr Beeley

What is meant by

the phrase?

Mr. Shone.

H.B. 1/7

Telegm Sectn
1/7/4

Alpha Room
Have provided 3 copies
to be sent to Eastern Dept
for Mr. Beeley to distribute to
Mr. Shone. H.B. 1/7.

ten in this min.

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61781

E 5408

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24 JUN E

En Clair

WORLD ORGANISATION DISTRIBUTION

FROM NEW YORK TO FOREIGN OFFICE

(From Permanent United Kingdom Representative
to the United Nations)

No. 1,685.

D: 6.56 p.m. 23rd June, 1947.

23rd June, 1947.

R: 1.45 a.m. 24th June, 1947.

Repeated to: Washington,
Jerusalem.

000 000 000

IMMEDIATE

GLAWF

Secretary General has asked me to communicate to you following telegram dated June 22nd received to-day from Secretariat of Special Committee on Palestine.

[Begins]

Committee after considering letter addressed to Chairman quoted below decided to-day by vote nine for one against one abstention on following resolution:

"In view of fact that majority of members of Committee have expressed concern as to possible unfavourable repercussions that execution of three death sentences pronounced by military court of Jerusalem June 16th day on which committee held its first meeting in Jerusalem might have upon fulfilment of the task with which General Assembly has entrusted the committee and considering the opinion of such members as to the scope of the resolution of the Palestine question adopted on May 15th 1947 by the General Assembly (Document A.309 11). The Committee resolves that the Chairman communicate to the Secretary-General a copy of this resolution and of the letter received from the relatives of the condemned persons for transmission to the mandatory power".

Text letter reads:

"We undersigned are parents and relatives of three young men who were yesterday convicted and sentenced to death by military court of Jerusalem in connexion with offences under defence emergency regulations.

Our sons were found guilty of participation in attack on Central Prison of Acre which took place on 4th May 1947

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61781

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- 2 -

as result of which certain Jewish and Arab prisoners have made good their escape. Unfortunately our three sons refused legal aid in connexion with their trial and although we have appointed an advocate to represent them they dispensed with his services stating that they did not recognise the authority of the military court and of the defence regulations under which they were tried. It was perfectly clear from the evidence that the attackers did not inflict any casualties on the security forces or on anybody else and not a single soldier or policeman was killed or hurt. Moreover it is not clear from the prosecution evidence what share in attack did our sons take if at all. They were arrested outside the city of Acre after attack on prison. Three of them are very young persons, Abshalom Habib, who is only 20 years of age is a university student, Meir Nakar, aged 21, is a workman who served three years with British army having been demobilised August 1946, Jacob Weiss, who is 23, was an employee in a factory and has only recently arrived Palestine having lost his parents and other members of his family who were exterminated by Nazis. He has a sister who lives in Czechoslovakia. We sincerely think that it would be unjust [? grp. omd: ? to] execute death sentence in this case and we strongly feel that death sentence should be commuted to one of imprisonment. We realise of course that our sons were found guilty of serious offences but they must have been influenced in whatever they have done by political propaganda probably misguided as a result of tragic position of their people. They are very young men and obviously they acted as idealists believing they were helping their people in that way. Having committed a crime against laws of this country we understand that they must be punished but not put to death. We therefore humbly beseech you that you Sir and the Committee may see fit to use your good offices with the Government and military authorities in this country to prevent the execution of our youthful sons by procuring a commutation of the death sentence passed upon them. We feel that you will appreciate the fact that the whole phenomenon of young men of good education and of respectable and law abiding families taking part in such exploits is the result of a greater tragedy in which our people are situated. It is that tragedy and the implications thereof that drive some of these young men to indulge in this unfortunate activity. The knowledge that you have now been charged with the historic mission to contribute to the solution of that tragedy justifies us in applying to you with our humble request.

Signed by: Massouda and Kadouri Nakara, Eliezer Habib, Rivka Habib, Henriette Reisner."

Please note request Committee that the resolution letter be transmitted to mandatory power. [Ends]

Foreign Office please pass to Jerusalem as my telegram No. 53.

[Copies sent to Telegraph Section Colonial Office for repetition to Jerusalem.]

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Reference: FO 371

61781

OUT FILE

75156/160

A 37

Wt. 20448, 9/46 50m. S. S. Ltd.

C. O.

Mr. Trafford Smith

1/6/47

Mr.

Mr.

Mr.

Mr.

Permt. U.S. of S.

Party U.S. of S.

Secretary of State.

Date

Respatched

26/6

9 20p

2 DRAFTS Telegram (Cypher)

HIGHCOMA,

PALESTINE

E 5468/46/31

Tel. to

UK Del.

New York 1845

~~Request to Washington~~

June 26

Cypher

Departmental No. 2

World Organisation

(Per Mr Bealey)

(94) Begins.

(96)

Important
your telegram no. 1685
This and the immediately
following telegram have been sent
by Colonial Office to Jerusalem to night.
Top Secret
Your telegram No. 1192.

UNSCOP Resolution.

I fully endorse the attitude you have adopted in your discussion of this matter with the Chairman. The text of the resolution has now been formally received through the United Nations channel by the Foreign Office (New York telegram No. 1685 repeated to you refers).

HMG have meanwhile been considering what attitude they are to adopt, and have provisionally decided on a reply on the lines of the draft contained in my immediately following telegram. This draft has been prepared on the assumption that when it is sent the sentences will still not have been confirmed by the General Officer Commanding. If however confirmation has by that time been given, the draft can be suitably amended.

Please deal with this point in your reply.
/2. The

FURTHER ACTION.

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Reference: **FO 371** / 61781

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2. The situation may arise in which sentences have been confirmed by the General Officer Commanding and you are called upon to decide on the next step before HMG's reply to the Secretary General's communication has been delivered. In those circumstances I should not wish to interfere in any way with your discretion in deciding whether or not ~~sentences are to be carried out.~~ *to intervene.*

3. It may help you to know that rule 81 of the rules of procedure of the Trusteeship Council precludes the admissibility before the Council of petitions directed against judgments of competent courts of the administering authority. Owing to the exceptional position of Palestine and the special conditions of the appointment of the Committee it is not proposed to cite this rule in analogy in replying to the Secretary General. It does however provide an argument which might be used if necessary at a later stage should controversy continue.

4. I should welcome your early comments on the draft in my immediately following telegram.

Please reply by Monday at latest as it is desired to refer to reply to Secretary General in answering a parliamentary question on this subject on the 2nd July.

5. This telegram and my immediate succeeding telegram are being repeated to Sir A. Badger in New York. Ends.

H.B. 26/16

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Reference:

FO 371

61781

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OUT FILE

39

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E.5468/46/31

Cypher/OTP

WORLD ORGANISATION DISTRIBUTION

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO NEW YORK.

(To Permanent United Kingdom Representative to the United Nations).

No. 1845

26th June 1947.

D. 9.20 p.m. 26th June 1947.

V V V

IMPORTANT.

GIANT.

Your telegram No. 1685.

This and the immediately following telegram have been sent by Colonial Office to Jerusalem tonight.

[Begins].

Your telegram No. 1192.

UNSCOP Resolution.

I fully endorse the attitude you have adopted in your discussion of this matter with the Chairman. The text of the resolution has now been formally received through the United Nations channel by the Foreign Office (New York telegram No. 1685 repeated to you refers). His Majesty's Government have meanwhile been considering what attitude they are to adopt, and have provisionally decided on a reply on the lines of the draft contained in my immediately following telegram. This draft has been prepared on the assumption that when it is sent the sentences will still not have been confirmed by the General Officer Commanding. If however confirmation has by that time been given, the draft can be suitably amended. Please deal with this point in your reply.

2. The situation may arise in which sentences have been confirmed by the General Officer Commanding and you are called upon to decide on the next step before His Majesty's Government's reply to the Secretary General's communication has been delivered. In these circumstances I should not wish to interfere in any way with your discretion in deciding whether or not to intervene.

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2.

3. It may help you to know that rule 81 of the rules of procedure of the Trusteeship Council precludes the admissibility before the Council of petitions directed against judgements of competent courts of the administering authority. Owing to the exceptional position of Palestine and the special conditions of the appointment of the Committee it is not proposed to cite this rule in analogy in replying to the Secretary General. It does however provide an argument which might be used if necessary at a later stage should controversy continue.

4. I should welcome your early comments on the draft in my immediately following telegram. Please reply by Monday at latest as it is desired to refer to reply to Secretary General in answering a Parliamentary question on this subject on the 2nd July.

5. This telegram and my immediately succeeding telegram are being repeated to Sir A. Cadogan in New York.

[Ends].

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Reference: **FO 371** / 61781

OUT FILE

75156/160

41 3

Wt. 29449/52 2 1/4 S & S Ltd.

C. O.

Mr. Trafford Smith

16/47

Mr.

Mr.

Mr.

Mr.

Permit U.S. of S.

Partly U.S. of S.

Secretary of State.

Date

Despatched

26/6
9-55p

2 DRAFTS Telegram (Cypher)

HIGHCOMA,

PALESTINE

E. 5468/46/31

Tel. 15

U.K. Del.

New York

1846 ✓

June 26

Cypher

Dep't. no. 2

World Organisation

(Per Mr Beelen)

Important

Urgent

My immediately preceding telegram
No. Top Secret following
is text of second Colonial Office telegram
My immediately preceding telegram
regarding UNSCOP resolution. Following
is text of proposed reply: ~~begins~~.

HMG have received and taken
note of the resolution passed by the United
Nations Special Committee on Palestine on
the 22nd June in regard to the three death
sentences pronounced by the Military
Court in Jerusalem on 16th June.

2. As the Committee have already
been informed by the Palestine Authorities,
the death sentences in question have not
yet been confirmed by the General Officer
Commanding under Regulations 47 and 48 of
Palestine Defence (Emergency) Regulations
1945, and are, therefore, still sub judice.
If the sentences are confirmed by the
General Officer Commanding, it will then
be open to the High Commissioner for
Palestine to exercise, if he thinks fit,
the Royal Prerogative of Pardon delegated

/ to him

FURTHER ACTION.

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Reference: FO 371 / 61781

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42
to him by His Majesty. It is ~~not~~ ^{invariably} the practice of HMG ^{not} to interfere with the High Commissioner's discretion whether or not to exercise this Prerogative.

3. As regards the resolution on the Palestine question adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 15th May, *to which the Committee refers,* HMG interpret this resolution as applying to action calculated to disturb the peace in Palestine; they cannot admit its relevance to the normal processes of the administration of justice there. ~~In referring the question of the future government of Palestine to the United Nations, HMG had no intention, pending the United Nations decision, of making any change in the present position in which they are solely responsible as Mandatory for the administration of the territory.~~

4. HMG have informed the High Commissioner for Palestine of the contents of the Secretary General's communication of the 23rd June to His Majesty's Government and of the terms of their reply. Ends.

(96)

~~SECRET.~~
HB. 267/6

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61781

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E.5468/46/31

Cypher/OTP

WORLD ORGANISATION DISTRIBUTION.

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO NEW YORK.

(To Permanent United Kingdom Representative to the United Nations).

No. 1846

26th June 1947.

D. 9.55 p.m. 26th June 1947.

V V V

IMPORTANT.

GIANT.

My immediately preceding telegram.

Following is text of second Colonial Office telegram.

[Begins].

My immediately preceding telegram regarding UNSCOP RESOLUTION. Following is text of proposed reply:

His Majesty's Government have received and taken note of the resolution passed by the United Nations Special Committee on Palestine on the 22nd June in regard to the three death sentences pronounced by the Military Court in Jerusalem on 16th June.

2. As the Committee have already been informed by the Palestine Authorities, the death sentences in question have not yet been confirmed by the General Officer Commanding under Regulations 47 and 48 of Palestine Defence (Emergency) Regulations 1945, and are, therefore, still sub judice. If the sentences are confirmed by the General Officer Commanding, it will then be open to the High Commissioner for Palestine to exercise, if he thinks fit, the Royal Prerogative of Pardon delegated to him by His Majesty. It is the invariable practice of His Majesty's Government not to interfere with the High Commissioner's discretion whether or not to exercise this prerogative.

3. As regards the resolution on the Palestine question

/adopted.....

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Reference: FO 371 / 61781

adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 15th May, to which the Committee refers, His Majesty's Government interpret this resolution as applying to action calculated to disturb the peace in Palestine; they cannot admit its relevance to the normal processes of the administration of justice there.

4. His Majesty's Government have informed the High Commissioner for Palestine of the contents of the Secretary General's communication of the 23rd June to His Majesty's Government and of the terms of their reply.

[Ends].

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Reference:-

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3149 Wt. 26469/137 100m 9/46 (51) F.&S. NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

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Draft. tel. W

U.K. Del.

New York

1862.

June 28th

by pher
Amster

World Org.

H.13. 28/6

OUT FILE

Date

Despatched

28/6
9 21 M

45

Immediati
Lyanti

My telegram no. 1846 [Pahstain]

Higf Commissioner approves text. Please therefore communicate it to the Secretary General, and inform me of the date and time at which this is done, repeating your telegram to Jerusalem.

Del
28/6

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6

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OUT FILE

46

[This telegram is of particular secrecy and should be retained by the authorised recipient and not passed on]
Confidential.
Cypher/OTP

WORLD ORGANISATION DISTRIBUTION

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO NEW YORK

(To Permanent United Kingdom Delegation to the United Nations)

No. 1862
28th June, 1947.

D. 9.45 p.m. 28th June, 1947.

Q Q Q

IMMEDIATE

GIANT

My telegram No. 1846 [Palestine].

High Commissioner approves text. Please therefore communicate it to the Secretary General, and inform me of the date and time at which this is done, repeating your telegram to Jerusalem.

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Reference:

FO 371

61781

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Registry
No.

Top Secret.
Secret.
Confidential.
Restricted.
Open.

OUT FILE

F. O.,

47

194

Despatched

M.

Draft.

IMMEDIATE
GIANT

The following may be of use to you in answering enquiries.

Telegram.

No.

(Date) July 1st

Repeat to :-

- † Washington 6503
- * CAIRO 1252
- * THE HAGUE 535
- * BAGHDAD 558
- * BELGRADE 1389
- Ø JEDDA 275
- Ø PRAGUE 710
- Ø BEIRUT H.C. 2/11/47
- * DAMASCUS 339
- * TEHERAN 507
- Ø AMMAN 272
- Ø LIMA 161
- * STOCKHOLM 507
- † GUATEMALA 79
- Ø MONTEVIDEO 101

(2) The United Nations Committee now in Palestine was approached by relatives of three Jews condemned to death by a Military Court for participation in an attack on Acre Prison on the 4th May. The Committee adopted the follow-

ing resolution:-

"In view of fact that majority of members of Committee have expressed concern as to possible unfavourable repercussions that execution of three death sentences pronounced by military court of Jerusalem June 16th day on which committee held its first meeting in Jerusalem might have upon fulfilment of the task with which General Assembly has entrusted the committee and considering the opinion of such members as to the scope of the resolution on the Palestine question adopted on May 15th 1947 by the General Assembly. The Committee resolves that the Chairman communicate to the Secretary-General a copy of this resolution and of the letter received from the relatives of the condemned persons for transmission to the mandatory power".

(3) The Committee's resolution was communicated to His Majesty's Government by the Secretary General. Text of ^(dated the 30th June) their reply, follows:-

His/

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

Beirut Sept.

En Clair.

Code

Cypher

Distribution :-

World Organization

H.B. 2076

Copies to :-

1	2	3	4	5	6

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Reference: FO 371 / 61781

48

"His Majesty's Government have received and taken note of the resolution passed by the United Nations Special Committee on Palestine on the 22nd June in regard to the three death sentences pronounced by the Military Court in Jerusalem on 16th June.

(2) As the Committee have already been informed by the Palestine Authorities, the death sentences in question have not yet been confirmed by the General Officer Commanding under Regulations 47 and 48 of Palestine Defence (Emergency) Regulations 1945, and are, therefore, still sub judice. If the sentences are confirmed by the General Officer Commanding, it will then be open to the High Commissioner for Palestine to exercise, if he thinks fit, the Royal Prerogative of Pardon delegated to him by His Majesty. It is the invariable practice of His Majesty's Government not to interfere with the High Commissioner's discretion whether or not to exercise this prerogative.

(3) As regards the resolution on the Palestine question adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 15th, May, to which the Committee refers, His Majesty's Government interpret this resolution as applying to action calculated to disturb the peace in Palestine; they cannot admit its relevance to the normal processes of the administration of justice there.

(4) His Majesty's Government have informed the High Commissioner for Palestine of the contents/

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61781

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NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

49
of the Secretary General's communication
of the 23rd June to His Majesty's Government
and of the terms of their reply".

H.73. 1/7

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WVI FILE

50

En Clair.

WORLD ORGANISATION DISTRIBUTION

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO HIS MAJESTY'S REPRESENTATIVES AT:-

WASHINGTON	6503
CAIRO	1257
THE HAGUE	555
BAGDAD	559
BELGRADE	1389
JEDDA	275
PRAGUE	740
BEIRUT	412
<u>UNITED KINGDOM HIGH COMMISSIONER IN INDIA</u>	
DAMASCUS	339
TEHRAN	507
AMMAN	272
LIMA	161
STOCKHOLM	507
GUATEMALA	79
MONTEVIDEO	101

No. 6503
1st July, 1947.

D: 5.5 p.m. 1st July, 1947

A A A A

IMMEDIATE.

GIANT.

The following may be of use to you in answering enquiries.

(2) The United Nations Committee now in Palestine was approached by relatives of three Jews condemned to death by a Military Court for participation in an attack on Acre Prison on the 4th May. The Committee adopted the following resolution:-

"In view of fact that majority of members of Committee have expressed concern as to possible unfavourable repercussions that execution of three death sentences pronounced by military court of Jerusalem June 16th day on which committee held its first meeting in Jerusalem might have upon fulfilment of the task with which General Assembly has entrusted the committee and considering the opinion of such members as to the scope of the resolution on the Palestine question adopted on May 15th 1947 by the General Assembly. The Committee resolves that the Chairman communicate to the Secretary-General a copy of this resolution and of the letter received from the relatives of the condemned persons for transmission to the mandatory power".

/(5)

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61781

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(5) The Committee's resolution was communicated to His Majesty's Government by the Secretary General. Text of reply, dated the 30th June, follows:-

"His Majesty's Government have received and taken note of the resolution passed by the United Nations Special Committee on Palestine on the 22nd June in regard to the three death sentence pronounced by the Military Court in Jerusalem on 16th June.

(2) As the Committee have already been informed by the Palestine Authorities, the death sentences in question have not yet been confirmed by the General Officer Commanding under Regulations 47 and 48 of Palestine Defence (Emergency) Regulations 1945, and are, therefore, still sub judice. If the sentences are confirmed by the General Officer Commanding, it will then be open to the High Commissioner for Palestine to exercise, if he thinks fit, the Royal Prerogative of Pardon delegated to him by His Majesty. It is the invariable practice of His Majesty's Government not to interfere with the High Commissioner's discretion whether or not to exercise this prerogative.

(3) As regards the resolution on the Palestine question adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 15th, May, to which the Committee refers, His Majesty's Government interpret this resolution as applying to action calculated to disturb the peace in Palestine; they cannot admit its relevance to the normal processes of the administration of justice there.

(4) His Majesty's Government have informed the High Commissioner for Palestine of the contents of the Secretary General's communication of the 23rd June to His Majesty's Government and of the terms of their reply."

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UNITED NATIONS
Department of Public Information
Press Division
Lake Success, Nassau County, New York FOREIGN OFFICE

Press Release PAL/53
1 July 1947

ES468/46/81
10 JUL 1947

U.K. REPLY TO RESOLUTION OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON PALESTINE

The following is the text of the reply, dated 30 June, from Sir Alexander Cadogan, Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom to the United Nations, to the Secretary-General regarding the resolution adopted by the Special Committee on Palestine:

"In reply to your letter No. 801-14-10/AWC of June 23 enclosing a telegram from the Secretariat of the Special Committee on Palestine concerning certain death sentences passed by the Military Court in Jerusalem, I have been instructed by my Government to communicate to you the following:

"His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom have received and taken note of the resolution passed by the United Nations Special Committee on Palestine on the 22nd June in regard to the three death sentences pronounced by the Military Court in Jerusalem on 16 June.

"As the Committee have already been informed by the Palestine authorities, the death sentences in question have not yet been confirmed by the General Officer Commanding under Regulations 47 and 48 of the Palestine Defence (Emergency) Regulations 1945 and are therefore still sub judice. If the sentences are confirmed by the General Officer Commanding, it will then be open to the High Commissioner for Palestine to exercise, if he thinks fit, the Royal Prerogative of Pardon delegated to him by His Majesty. It is the invariable practice of His Majesty's Government not to interfere with the High Commissioner's discretion whether or not to exercise this prerogative.

"As regards the resolution on the Palestine question adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 15th May, to which the Committee refers, His Majesty's Government interpret this resolution as applying to action calculated to disturb the peace in Palestine; they cannot admit its relevance to the normal process of the administration of justice there.

(MORE)

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"His Majesty's Government have informed the High Commissioner for Palestine of the contents of the Secretary-General's communication of 23rd June to His Majesty's Government and of the terms of their reply."

"I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

Alexander Cadogan"

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Reference: **FO 371** / **61781**

5468/46/31

INWARD TELEGRAM

54

En Clair

FROM PALESTINE (Gen. Sir A. Cunningham)

TO S. OF S. COLONIES.

D. 8th July, 1947.

R. 9th " " 07.00 hrs.

No. 15. PALNEWS.

Following from Press Officer. Begins.

Three death sentences in connection
prison break Acre confirmed by G.C.C. according
Official Communiqué No. 122 in Jerusalem this
morning. Communiqué adds:

It will be remembered that, as
result of attack Acre Prison 4th May, 1947,
251 convicted criminals set free and loosed on to
community. Ends.

Copies sent to:-

B.B.C.
Foreign Office

- Mr. J. Grenfell Williams
- Mr. H. Beeley

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Reference:-

FO

371

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464

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55

1947

PALESTINE

E 5588

27 JUN

Registry Number

E 5588/46/31

FROM

Colonial
Office
Board
25 JUN

No.

Dated

Received in Registry

*Political Special Committee.
Copy of letter from H. L. Gurney to
T. O. Hingham of 17 June discussing
annual of committee at Colonial and
opening of their proceedings.*

Last Paper.

5468

(Minutes.)

References.

*News [unclear] to me.
M.E. [unclear]*

H.B. Beely 29/6

*Para 7 of this letter has in particular
been noted & if occasion requires
will be used by News Dept.*

L. E. [unclear] 1/7

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

In p.p. C.O. tel. 1346 of 23rd. June.

H.B. 9/7

(Action completed.)

PC 6/9/47

(Index.)

[Signature] 3/4/48

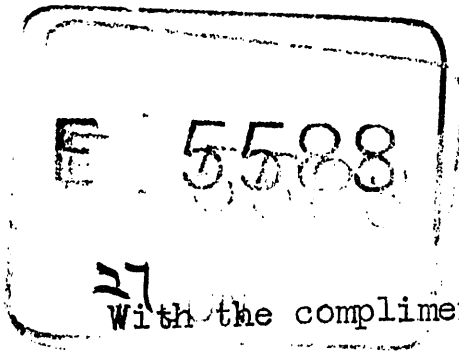
Next Paper.

5591

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Reference: **FO 371** / **61781**



With the compliments of
the Under Secretary of State
for the Colonies.

Colonial Office,
Downing Street,
25.6. 1947.

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FO 371 / 61781

CO

57
CHIEF SECRETARY'S OFFICE,
JERUSALEM,
PALESTINE.

17th June, 1947.

SECRET AND PERSONAL

My dear Martin,

I am dictating this hurriedly to catch the mail as you will probably like to have an account of the opening of the UNO Committee's proceedings here.

2 When Sandstrom, Hoo and Robles arrived on Saturday I met them, and it was clear that they had very sketchy ideas as to how to conduct the Committee's work in Palestine and that they were really looking to us to help them. They had an hour and a half's talk with the High Commissioner that evening which was very cordial and encouraging. On Sunday morning Sandstrom and Robles came to call on me and asked that we should map out an itinerary for the Committee to consider the following morning. This we did, and it was put to the Committee without reference to the fact that it came from us. The Chairman also asked on Sunday that we should send somebody to meet the Committee on Monday afternoon quite informally in order to show the Committee their way about the Government evidence. I readily agreed to this on the understanding that it would be an informal meeting, that there would be no question of evidence and that only the members and their alternates would be there. Sandstrom said that he intended to have a similar informal meeting with the Jewish Agency.

3 At his press conference yesterday he got into very deep water with a number of the newer correspondents from America who have not yet become acclimatised to Palestine and was criticised for having agreed to what was called a 'secret session'. He was also criticised in the morning by some of his Committee for the same reasons. These criticisms found their way/

J.M. Martin, Esq., C.B., C.VO.

25 JUN 1947

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61781

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58

way on to Hoo and Robles, and yesterday afternoon there was general confusion and uncertainty. I attended the afternoon meeting of the Committee with alternates and what appeared to me to be a large number of other people and answered questions for over three hours, at the end of which the Committee evidently felt fairly exhausted and proceeded in part to dinner at Government House, where the general atmosphere was pleasantly restored.

The position this morning is that the Committee have not yet decided whether or not to hear the Jewish Agency in public this afternoon. If they decide on a public hearing I shall ask the Chairman to make it clear that all that had been originally intended was an informal meeting similar to that of yesterday, and that the meeting is not taking evidence.

From the above you will see that the Committee is still very much in the teething stage of procedural difficulties. It also contains some obviously unhelpful elements, particularly the Indian and the Yugoslav delegates. At first sight I have the impression that the Dutch and the Iranians are the most likely to be helpful.

Clearly this Government has got and is going to have a very bad overseas press for its decision to give evidence only in camera. That is understandable, and there are two points that might be emphasised if the matter is raised in London. First, that the Government's evidence has in fact been presented in writing and this is public, and secondly, that the only reason why individual Government spokesmen cannot give their evidence in public is that of their personal security as civil servants.

I should perhaps add that we are all astounded at the complete ignorance of the part of the Committee of anything concerning Palestine. They indeed have a lot to learn and I do not see how they are going to do it in so short a time. When I had talked to them for three hours I was reminded of the verse in the Snark which begins: "The indictment had never been clearly expressed".

Yours sincerely,
(Sgd.) H.L. GURNEY.

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OUTWARD TELEGRAM

K. E. ...
59

5587/46 (1)

75872/154/47

Cypher (O.T.P.)

TO PALESTINE (General Sir A. Cunningham)

FROM S. OF S., COLONIES.

Sent 23rd June, 1947. 18.00 hrs.

INDEXED

IMPORTANT

No.1346 Secret.

Following for Gurney from Martin. Begins.

Most grateful for your letter of 17th June about U.N.O. Committee's proceedings.

2. We should be glad if when formal hearing of evidence begins brief daily reports could be telegraphed. These would be particularly useful for purposes of guidance to Press and B.B.C. and for correcting misunderstandings.

3. Grateful if you would also arrange for a despatch by air mail of 3 copies of all communiques issued by Committee's Secretariat and of any other documents of interest from that source. Ends.

Distributed to:-

Foreign Office

- Mr. H. Beeley.

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465

E

E 5591

60

1947

PALESTINE

27 JUN

Registry Number

E 5591/46/31

FROM

No.

G. V.

Dated

bound.

Received in Registry

27 June

Manufacture of Small Arms by Hand.

Palatine Ltd 1181 of June 20.

Inventory by military Party of stockd engineering shop, which reveals machinery for the manufacture of small arms

(Minutes.)

Last Paper.

5588

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Action completed.)

9/26/30/6

(Index)

2/1/48

Next Paper.

5592

H.B. 28/6

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FO 371

61781

INWARD TELEGRAM 20 JUN

E 5591

27 JUN

EE Clair

FROM PALESTINE (Gen. Sir A. Cunningham)

TO S. OF S. COLONIES.

D. 20th June, 1947.
R. 20th " " 21.30 hrs.

IMMEDIATE

No. 1181.

Addressed to S. of S.
Repeated Washington No. 143.
" Memin Cairo No. 111. (Please pass copy
to C. in C. and Ambassador).
" Amman No. 907 and to Damascus by
Saving.

Following for Trafford Smith.

At about 11.00 hours this morning a military party discovered a locked engineering shop within the military perimeter around Citrus House in Tel Aviv. On forcing the doors two men were seen to escape towards the roof. A search of the premises revealed machinery on three floors for manufacture of small arms. At least 20 persons must have been employed. Preliminary reports indicate that parts of Sten guns were under manufacture. Full details not yet available.

/Copies sent to:-

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Reference:-
FO 371
61781

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62

RECEIVED IN C.E.
24 JUN 1947
SENT TO DEPT.
27 JUN 1947

Copies sent 27 JUN 1947

Foreign Office

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- " "

(Research Dept.)
(Middle East
Secretariat)

M.I. 5
Cabinet Offices

- " "
- " "

Admiralty
War Office

- " " (M.I. 5)
- " " (M.I. 3a)
- " " (M.O. 4)

Air Ministry
Ministry of Defence

- " "
- " "

Private Secretary, No. 10 Downing Street.
J.A.M. Pimlott, Esq., Private Secretary to the
Lord President of the Council.

- Private Secretary.
- Mr. C.W. Baxter.
- Mr. N. Butler.
- Dominions Intelligence Dept.
- Air Commodore K.C. Buss.
- Mr. D.A. Greenhill.
- Major Gen. A.J.C. Pollock.
- Mr. T.A. Robertson.
- Gen. Sir L. Hollis.
- Grp. Capt. Stapleton.
- Mr. T.A.G. Charlton.
- Chief of Naval Staff.
- C.I.G.S.
- Lt. Col. W. Gore.
- Major Telfer Smollett.
- Lt. Col. J.G. Atkinson.
- Chief of Air Staff.
- Private Secretary.
- Sir Henry Wilson Smith.

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FO 371

61781

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E 5642 63

1947

PALESTINE

30 JUN

Registry Number

E5642/46/31.

FROM

P. 2

No.

General Sir

Dated

George Jefferys.

Received in Registry

25 June
20 -

Anti terrorist measures
General Sir George Jefferys. asked Ref of whether to issue new instructions to I/C. to effect that law and order are to be maintained and terrorism stamped out. and what further measures I/C considers necessary for the purpose. in Beach Road. I/C has indicated that existing instructions give him all necessary latitude.

Last Paper.

55-92.

(Minutes.)

References.

H.B. 1/4

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Action completed.)

[Handwritten signature]
6/2/47

(Index.)

[Handwritten signature]
3/1/47

Next Paper.

5-643

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61781

65

RECEIVED IN C.B.
27 JUN 1947
SENT TO DEP..

PALESTINE

Anti-Terrorist Measures

7. General Sir George Jeffreys asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he has sent instructions to the High Commissioner for Palestine to the effect that law and order are to be maintained and terrorism stamped out; and what representations have been received from the High Commissioner as to the measures which he considers necessary for this purpose.

Mr. Creech Jones: The High Commissioner is well aware of the policy of His Majesty's Government, which is that every effort should be made to maintain law and order in Palestine and to suppress lawlessness and terrorism. He has indicated that his existing instructions give him all necessary latitude.

Sir G. Jeffreys: Is it not a fact that the High Commissioner has recently intimated that if the Armed Forces were allowed to exert their full power against the whole Jewish community, terrorism could be eradicated in a very short time indeed? In view of that fact, why is such authority not given to the High Commissioner? Indeed, why are not orders given to him to use the full power of the Army?

Mr. Creech Jones: There has been no withholding of the necessary authority to the High Commissioner in respect of the representations he has made. Indeed, he has always taken the view most strongly that suppression of terrorism is not a matter of military operations so much as a matter of police work.

25 JUN 1947

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Reference: FO 371 / 61781

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E 5643

1947

30 JUN

bb

PALESTINE

Registry Number

FROM

No.

Dated

Received in Registry

ES143/26/51

P. Q.

W. Lipsca

25 June

30 -

attempt to blow-up British 119 Tel Aviv.
W. Lipsca, 1/11/47, 1/4. He made a
statement in the papers of the recent attempt
to blow-up the British 119 at Tel Aviv
when Zucca wanted sacrifice his life
to save 300 British troops.
W. Lipsca gave complete account of
the incident.

Last Paper.

5-642.

(Minutes.)

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Action completed.)

(Index.)

GEM 2/7

[Handwritten signature]

Next Paper.

5-662

32003 F.O.P

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61781

EASTERN

E

Entered

Parliamentary Question

67

* 64. Mr. Lipson,—To ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies, if he will make a statement on the failure of the recent attempt to blow up the British headquarters at Tel Aviv when a Palestinian Jew, Zeev Werber, sacrificed his life to save the lives of 800 British troops. [Wednesday 25th June.]

Lud

Cheltenham.

ANSWERED 25 JUN 1947
REPLY ATTACHED
overleaf

F.O. ARE NOT ASKED TO ADVISE.

E 5643
30 JUN

414/5.

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61781

469

1947

E

E 5662

PALESTINE

30 JUN

69

Registry Number } E 5662/46/31.

TELEGRAM FROM

No. U.K. Rel.

Dated New York.

Received in Registry } 1722.

27 June

30

Oppt against execution of terrorists.
Report New York tel 1685 (E 5468/46/31)
Sec Gen has communicated text of telegram
addressed to him by sister of Jacob WEISS
in Czechoslovakia pleading against execution.
Copy by log.

Last Paper.

5-643

(Minutes.)

References.

In P.P. U.K. Rel, New York despatch 179 1/7.

H.B. 2/7

(Print.)

by log.

H.B. 2/7

(How disposed of.)

8/ In P.P.

C.O.

✓ July 7

In P.P. Frances Nathan Nagler.

H.B. 15/7

(Action completed.)

[Signature]

(Index.)

[Signature]

Next Paper.

E 5687

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Reference: **FO 371** / **61781**

C O P Y

72

Praha
Trygve Lie
General Secretary
United Nations, New York.

As the only surviving relative of my brother Jakob Weiss who is now awaiting execution in Jerusalem Military Prison I implore that you urgently intervene obtain commutal death sentence. Both our parents and six brothers sisters died in Auschwitz's Gaschambers and the same was fate of rest our family. My twenty-three years old brother is no criminal and whatever he is accused of having done is still inseparable part of very conflict UNO now trying solve. You as UNO's executive are my only hope that I may not lose last relative I have in world. To you I reiterate my desperate plea please intervene.

Edith Weiss Karlovy Vary Zeyorova 19

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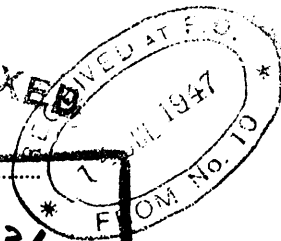
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10, DOWNING STREET, S.W.1

PRIVATE SECRETARY

Foreign Office

5662 / 46 / P1
JUL 1947



The attached communication addressed to the Prime Minister is transmitted to you to be dealt with in whatever manner is considered appropriate by the Department concerned. It refers to ~~previous correspondence which was forwarded to you on~~.....

1. No acknowledgment has been sent from here.
2. A plain acknowledgment has ~~been sent~~ from here, adding that the ~~communication~~ has been forwarded to your Department.
3. A copy of the acknowledgment which has been sent from here is attached.

Date 10.7.47.

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FORM NO. 6B.

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(THE WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH COMPANY)
(INCORPORATED IN THE STATE OF NEW YORK, U.S.A., WITH LIMITED LIABILITY.)

CABLEGRAM

ANGLO-AMERICAN TELEGRAPH CO., LD.

CANADIAN NATIONAL TELEGRAPHS.

74

RECEIVED AT 5, NORTHUMBERLAND AVENUE, LONDON, W.C.2. (Tel. No. Whitehall 8332.)

CX15 BROOKLYNNY 28 8

1947 JUL 9 AM 9 36

Γ MLT PRIME MINISTER ATTLEE LONDON

10 DOWNING ST,

RA
to FO
10/7
INDEXED

= URGE YOU TO INFLUENCE CUNNINGHAM TO PREVENT EXECUTION
OF THREE JEWISH BOYS WHO DESERVE LIFE MORE THAN
KESSELRING AND NAZIS

= FRANCES NATHAN NAGLER

Please send your Reply "Via WESTERN UNION" You may telephone us for a messenger

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470

8

E

E 5687

1947

PALESTINE

1 JUL

75

Registry Number

E5687/46/31

FROM

Claremont

No.

Regation to the Holy See

Dated

Rome 9/5/47

Received in Registry

25 July

Settlement of Palestine, Religious aspect.
London correspondent of Tempo reports, in conversation with an anonymous member of the U.S. Commission, that said that the decision of the committee would depend partly upon the religious aspect of the case, given heretofore points.

Last Paper.

5662.

(Minutes.)

References.

William S. Sutoris
copy/c.o.

H13. 11/7

I had seen this in the Rome 'Press headlines' and thought it a most ingenious proposal.

7/7

H13. 9/7

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8/c.o.
✓ July 4

(Action completed.)

J. P. 19/7

(Index.)

3/4/48

Next Paper.

5-688

32003 F.O.P

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Reference: **FO 371** / 61781

British Legation to the Holy See,
R O M E.

95/1147

1 JUL

25th June 1947.

Dear Department,

The London correspondent of the "Tempo" reports in a message published in that newspaper on June 21st, a conversation with an anonymous member of the United Nations Commission of Enquiry on Palestine. Although the latter said little, he drew attention to Article 5 of the Resolution passed by the United Nations General Assembly calling upon the Special Committee to pay the closest attention in Palestine to the religious interests of Judaism, Islam and Christianity. The settlement which the Committee will propose to U.N.O. will therefore, he says, take also the interests of Christianity into account, and he speculates upon the possibility of entrusting the administration of the Holy City to the Vatican. By this means, not only would the Western World keep a hand on the reins in the Middle East, but it would also create in a short time a zone which would be regarded as sacrosanct by international public opinion; Rome would resume its traditional mediatory rôle between East and West, and carry out a specific balancing task in the Mediterranean. The correspondent concludes by saying that the terms of reference of the Commission contemplate

Eastern Department,
Foreign Office.

20

1	2	3	4	5	6

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Reference: **FO 371** / 61781

471

1947

E

E 5688

PALESTINE

1 JUL

78

Registry Number

E 5688/46/31

FROM

G. Fitzgerald

No.

L. M. Bealey

Dated

Command

Received in Registry

30 June

1 July

Palestine, Special U.N. Committee.
Transmit copy of letter from Mr. Fellowship
& Mr. Bealey dated June 24 referring to P'stel
tel 1203, states that reprinted version of
Scott memo is being presented to Committee
24 June and will be released to Press 25.
Recesses points with regard to the
activities of the Committee in Palestine.

Last Paper.

5687

(Minutes.)

References.

In P.P. P'stel tel 1203 25/6.

H.B. Bealey 1/7

W.M. 2/7

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

In P.P. C.O. tel 1376 26/6

P'stel tel 1237 27/6

H.B. 4/7

Tel to Palestine 16328/24/7

H.B. 2/8

(Action completed.)

[Signature]

(Index.)

[Signature]

Next Paper.

5692

32003 F.O.P

59/1

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COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

Reference: FO 371 / 61781

SECRET

COPY

Chief Secretary's Office,
Jerusalem,
Palestine.

SECRET AND PERSONAL

24th June, 1947.

30

Dear Martin,

As you will have learnt from the High Commissioner's telegram No. 1203 of yesterday the expurgated edition of the Scott memorandum is being presented to the Committee this evening and will be released to the press tomorrow morning, provided no objection is raised to this procedure by the Committee. Enclosed are single copies of the letter under which the memorandum will be presented and of the memorandum itself. Ten additional copies of the memorandum are being sent to you under separate cover.

Also enclosed is a summary record of the Committee's proceedings on the afternoon of the 17th June when Shertok was before them for close on three hours. The Committee's secretariat has been slow in producing documents during their first week and this summary was not available until yesterday. They are now settling down in the Y.M.C.A. and document production will no doubt be more speedy in future.

I regret I am not yet able to send you a copy of the summary record of the meeting held on the afternoon of the 16th June when the Chief Secretary met the Committee. On the previous day the Chairman and Robles assured the Chief Secretary that the meeting would be quite informal and that a summary record would be kept for their files in three copies only. In the event a very inadequate and incorrect

/record

J.M. Martin Esq., C.B., C.V.O.,
The Colonial Office,
London

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61781

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present intention is to start public hearings on Friday 4th July, resuming on Monday 7th July; to hear the Jewish Agency first (the Agency have asked for 3½ days to present their case) and then to hear Dr. Weizmann in his personal capacity. Apparently Weizmann wrote a letter to the Chairman in his own hand a week or so ago saying that he wished to give evidence as an individual and not on behalf of any organization; this letter, Bunche tells me, came to light only yesterday amongst a mass of other papers, just before the Chairman and three other members were leaving for Rehovot to lunch with Weizmann.

The insistence of the Committee on undertaking all their official tours in one party is naturally not conducive to close contacts and is having the effect of discouraging Arabs who might otherwise have been prepared to come forward and discuss at least local affairs with small groups of Committee members. The Committee are followed everywhere by a hoard of press representatives and photographers and some of the members themselves have complained that they have been unable to have even a brief exchange of words with any resident of Palestine without one or more pressmen taking a verbatim record of what is said. Moreover, the Committee's own reputation as a body of high international standing is not enhanced in the eyes of the less discerning of the local population by their being accompanied by men, some in their braces and eyeshades and others wearing pink baseball caps, and by women in rather scanty clothing.

The Yugoslavs now have a party of nine, shortly, I understand, to be increased to ten; it includes two press attaches. The Indians are

making

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61781

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making themselves very unpopular, even with other delegations, by their outspoken criticism of Zionism and of everything Jewish; the junior members of the delegation are reported as even having been bold enough to taunt representatives of the American Zionist Press.

Yours sincerely,

(Sgd.) D.C. MacGillivray.

P.S.

Since writing the above I have seen your telegram No.1346 of the 23rd June. I will see that three copies of communiques and other documents issued by the U.N.S.C.O.P. secretariat are sent to you by air as soon as we can get hold of them.

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Reference:-

FO 371

61781

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Cypher (O.T.P.)

URGENT TELEGRAM

34
E 5/11/46 /21

2 JUN 1947

FROM PALESTINE (Gen. Sir A. Cunningham)

TO S. OF S., COLONIES.

D. 23rd June, 1947.

R. 24th " " 06.30 hrs.

INDEXED

No. 1203

Following for Martin from Gurney. . Begins.

Expurgated version of Scott's memorandum will be presented (tomorrow) to the United Nations Committee (as promised in paragraph 3 of my letter of 15th June to them, copy enclosed in MacGillivray's letter of 17th June to you). Memorandum will be published on 25th June.

2. Our experience here shows that there is little difference between the treatment of confidential evidence and that of evidence given publicly. For example, Palestine Post has got hold of uncorrected version of my statements to the Committee on the 16th June, which the Chairman and Secretary had assured us would be treated as confidential.

3. Copies of the memorandum following by air mail.
Ends.

Copies sent to:-

Foreign Office - Mr. Barber.
" " - Mr. Bailey.

1	2	3	4	5	6

Reference:-

FO 371 / 61781

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OUTWARD TELEGRAM

26

73872/154/1/47

ES 88 / 46 / 31

En Clair

TO PALESTINE (Gen. Sir A. Cunningham)

FROM S. OF S. COLONIES.

Sent 24th July, 1947. 16.00 hrs.

No. 1632

INDEXED

My telegram No. 1376.

Palestine Government Memorandum.

Document has had record sale in New York. Grateful if further 100 copies could be sent by air route to B.I.S. New York. Cost of memoranda and freight is chargeable to Foreign Office.

Copies sent to:-

Foreign Office - Mr. Seeley.
" (American Information Dept.)

1	2	3	4	5	6
1	1	2			

Reference: **FO 371 / 61781**

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En Clair

INWARD TELEGRAM

5688 46 71

2 JUL 1947

INDEXED

87

FROM PALESTINE (Gen. Sir A. Cunningham)
TO S. OF S., COLONIES.

D. 27th June, 1947.
R. 27th " " 16.30 hrs.

IMPORTANT

No. 1237.

Your telegram No. 1376.

Copies of memorandum are being sent today by air in numbers requested to B.I.S. New York and A.I.D. Foreign Office.

2. Five hundred copies of memorandum were put on sale here yesterday at 50 mils per copy.

Owing to local demand, printing of further two thousand copies is being put in hand at once. Copies can be made available for sale by Crown Agents. Please telegraph number required.

3. Ten copies were sent yesterday by air to Marden for official use. Further fifty copies follow today.

4. Official translations into Hebrew and Arabic are now being prepared for local sale.

Copies sent to:-
Foreign Office - Mr. Bealey.
Crown Agents for the Colonies.

1	2	3	4	5	6
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Reference:-

FO 371

61781

472.

E

E 5682

88

1947

PALESTINE

1 JUL

Registry Number

E 5682/46/31

FROM

1st A Secret

No.

Commons Office

Dated

1st Dec.

Received in Registry

F 2780.

25 June

1 July

U.N. news on North Sentences of Trial.
Refer New York 11 1685 (E 5468/46/31)
re U.N. letter on subject of both sentences
read on other side, also that Dominion
Govt. may be informed of H.M.G. attitude
in advance.

Last Paper.

1-688

(Minutes.)

Action taken

References.

H13. 11/17

(Print.)

In P.P. D.O. Secret 0.562 30/6

H13. 17

(How disposed of.)

(Action completed.)

G. E. 1/4

(Index.)

10/1/48
3/1/48

Next Paper.

E 5725

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Reference: FO 371 / 61781

E 5092/46/31 p.w.

Any telegraphic retransmission of this secret cypher (publex) telegram must be prepared in a one-time system.

OUTWARD TELEGRAM FROM DOMINIONS OFFICE

90

With the Compliments of the
Under Secretary of State for Dominions

F.2780/45
CYPHER (PUBLEX)

O.D.

30.6.47

TO: CANADA (GOVT.)
AUSTRALIA "
NEW ZEALAND "
SOUTH AFRICA "

(Sent 9.20 p.m. 28th June, 1947.)

INDEXED

D. No. 562 SECRET.

PALESTINE

We have received from Secretary General to United Nations copy of letter addressed to Chairman of United Nations Special Committee on Palestine from relatives of three Jews sentenced to death by military court in Jerusalem for participation in attack on Acre prison, together with text of resolution of Committee decided by nine voters to one, with one abstention, as follows. Begins.

"In view of fact that majority of members of Committee have expressed concern as to possible unfavourable repercussions that execution of three death sentences pronounced by military court of Jerusalem June 16th day on which committee held its first meeting in Jerusalem might have upon fulfilment of the task with which General Assembly has entrusted the committee and considering the opinion of such members as to the scope of the resolution of the Palestine question adopted on May 15th 1947 by the General Assembly (Document A.309 11), the Committee resolves that the Chairman communicate to the Secretary-General a copy of this resolution and of the letter received from the relatives of the condemned persons for transmission to the mandatory power". Ends.

Letter requests Committee to use its good offices with Palestine Government in order to procure commutation of death sentences.

2. Following is gist of reply which United Kingdom Permanent Representative to United Nations has been instructed to communicate to Secretary General. Begins.

His Majesty's Government in United Kingdom have received and taken note of resolution.

As Committee have already been informed by Palestine authorities, death sentences in question have not yet been confirmed by General Officer Commanding and are, therefore, still sub judice. If sentences are confirmed by General Officer Commanding, it will then be open to High Commissioner for Palestine to exercise, if he thinks fit, Royal Prerogative of Pardon delegated to him by His Majesty. It is invariable practice of His Majesty's Government in United Kingdom not to interfere with High Commissioner's discretion whether or not to exercise this prerogative.

As regards resolution on Palestine question adopted by General Assembly of United Nations on 15th May, to which Committee refers, His Majesty's Government in United Kingdom interpret this resolution as applying to action calculated to disturb peace in Palestine; they cannot admit its relevance to normal processes of administration of justice there.

His/

SPECIAL

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Reference: FO 371 / 61781

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473

E

F 5725

92

PALESTINE

1 JUL

1947

Registry Number } E5725/46/31
TELEGRAM FROM

No. U.K. Del
Dated New York.
Received in Registry } 1739
30 June
1 Jul.

Palistine, Special Committee and Death
Resolves
Refer to 11.11.1862 (E5468/46/31) Airtel
Reply was handed to Sir Gen 3.45 local
time 30 June. He will release it for
publication at 10.0. AM. July 1.

Last Paper.

5692.

(Minutes.)

References.

HB 17

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Action completed.)

GEM/2/7

(Index.)

3/7/48

Next Paper.

5760

32008 F.O.P.

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Reference: FO 371 / 61781

E 93

En Clair

WORLD ORGANISATION DISTRIBUTION

FROM NEW YORK TO FOREIGN OFFICE

(From Permanent United Kingdom Representative
to the United Nations)

No. 1759

D. 4.44 p.m. 30th June, 1947.

30th June, 1947.

R. 11.20 p.m. 30th June, 1947.

Repeated to Washington
Jerusalem

F F F F

IMMEDIATE
CONFIDENTIAL
GIANT

E 5725

JUL
E 5468/46/21

Your telegram No. 1862

Palestine: Special Committee and Death
sentences.

Reply was handed to Secretary-General at
5.45 p.m. local time today. He will release it
for publication at 10 a.m. tomorrow July 1st.

16 JUL 1947
TAXES
RECEIVED
SECRETARY GENERAL
UNITED NATIONS

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Reference:

FO 371

61781

474

E

E 5760

1947

PALESTINE

2 JUL

914

Registry Number } E 5760/46/31
TELEGRAM FROM

No. Sir G. Ogilvie-

Dated Forles

Received in Registry } Caracas

233

28 June

Request for documents

Refer F.O. 226 (C.N. 3224/18/78) Ask for 6 copies of White Paper (and 7024) of per text of General Public Statements, Action 1 of Feb 18 and February 25th.

Last Paper.

5725

References.

(Minutes.)

Divn. please take action as requested in this tel.

HFB. 27/7

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

6 Copies of documents requested.

9) Caracas no. 99

✓ (open) 9 July

(Action completed.)

J. E. 6/10/7

(Index.)

3/4/48

Next Paper.

E 5811

32008 F.O.P.

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Reference:

FO 371

61781

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Code R

DEPARTMENTAL NO.1

FROM CARACAS TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Sir G. Ogilvie Forbes.

No.233

D. 4.25 p.m. 28th June, 1947

F 5760

28th June, 1947

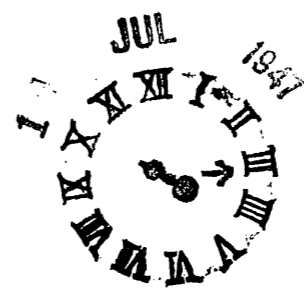
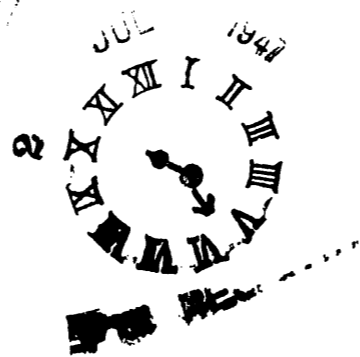
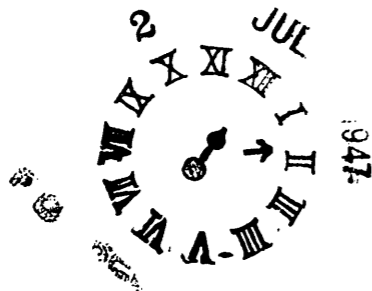
R.12.55 a.m. 29th June, 1947

2 JUL

.....
19/6
Your telegram No.226.

VN 3224/18/78

Please send by air bag soon as possible 6 copies of White Paper, Palestine number one, 1947, and of the text of General public statements, Section 1 of February 18th and February 25th.



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Reference: **FO 371** / **61781**

475

E

E 5811 96

1947

PALESTINE

3 July

Registry Number

55811/46/31

FROM

60

No.

Command

Dated

Received in Registry

3 July

Palentine, Special Committee

P.O. tel to Palentine 13744 25/6

Asks the filloway, what is present estimate of probable date of Committee's arrival in Geneva. Also asks to be kept informed of their future plans.

Last Paper.

1-760

(Minutes.)

References.

In P.P. Pictone tel 12444 22/6

H.B. 3/17

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Action completed)

9/16/47

(Index)

10/1/47

Next Paper.

E 5842

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Reference: FO 371 / 61781

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OUTWARD TELEGRAM

E 17-5811 97

3 JUN 1947

Code

TO PALESTINE (Gen. Sir A. Cunningham)

FROM S. OF S., COLONIES.

Sent 25th June, 1947. 22.30 hrs.

No. 1374

Following for MacGillivray from
Martin. Begins.

What is present estimate of probable
date of Committee's arrival in Geneva? Please
keep us informed by telegram of their future
plans as these become more definite. We shall
of course also be glad to have as soon as
possible any indications of nature of evidence
they are likely to request from representative
of H.M.G. Ends.

Copy sent to:-

Foreign Office - Mr. Bealey.

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61781

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Enter

1 / 1

98

INWARD TELEGRAM

3 JUL 1947

Cypher (O.T.P.)

FROM PALESTINE (Gen. Sir A. Cunningham)

TO S. OF S., COLONIES.

D. 29th June, 1947.
R. 29th " " 16.25 hrs.

INDEXED

No. 1244 Secret.

Your telegram No. 1374.

Following for Martin from MacGillivray. Begins.

Public hearings will begin on Friday 4th July with evidence of the Jewish Agency which will be continued on Sunday 6th July and 7th July. Weizmann will probably be heard in personal capacity on 9th July and will be followed on subsequent days by other Jewish organisations and individuals and representatives of Christian Churches. It is anticipated by Robles that public hearings cannot be concluded before 20th July.

2. There has, as yet, been no discussion in the Committee as to their procedure on conclusion of public hearings in Palestine. A few of the members have expressed the view that the report should be written in New York, but it is assumed by the Secretariat and by the majority of the members that they will go to Geneva. The Secretariat has, in fact, asked the Secretary General to reserve accommodation at Geneva as from 20th July, I understand that Committee members have not been informed of this.

3. The questions of visits to Camps in Europe and Cyprus and to neighbouring Arab States have not yet been formally discussed by the Committee, and I gained the impression that the Chairman would prefer not to undertake any such visits and is deliberately evading these issues until the time factor rules them out. So far as I am aware, invitation to visit Trans-Jordan (see Amman's telegram to the Foreign Office No. 198 of 24th June) has not yet been put before the Committee. Ends.

Copies sent to:- Foreign Office - Mr. C.W. Baxter
- Mr. H. Beesley

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Reference: FO 371 / 61781

476

E

E 5842

1947

PALESTINE

4 JUL 1947

Registry Number } E 5842/46/31

FROM

No. H Van Vloten

Dated Leyden

Received in Registry } June 30

July 4

Report on Palestine

states, at Embassy Information Service in the Hague to read report on Anglo-Palestine relations in DM no R 1347 of 27 March 1947. Also to be furnished with a copy for forthcoming article.

Last Paper.

(-811)

(Minutes.)

Why doesn't he write to the Hague, when he saw the document? I suggest we send his letter there.

References.

(Print.)

M.E.I.D. (does the ref. mean anything to you?) H. Berkeley 27

(How disposed of.)

~~Ref. H. Van Vloten~~

ene.

✓ Aug 20

M.E.I.D. no nothing at all of this reference. Perhaps it may mean something to W. European Inf. Dept.?

Mrs. de Vries, W. European I.D. J.S. Campsie 12/7

Mr. Berkeley, E. Dept.

I attach a copy of the document for which Mr. Van Vloten asked. For your information, the reference number indicates that the document in question belongs to the series of Ref. Docs. put out by Ref. Div. C.O.I. I am surprised that M.E.I.D. did not recognize it.

(Action completed.)

(Index)

3/11/48

In writing to Mr. van Vloten, would you ask him to address future requests of this nature to the Information Officer British Press and Information Services, Lange Voorhout, 29, The Hague who can supply or obtain this sort of thing.

J.S. Campsie 12/7

Letter to Mr Vloten 28.7.47

Next Paper.

E 5861

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Reference: FO 371 / 61781

1	2	3	4	5	6

VAN VLOTEN
NIEUWSTEEG 5
LEIDEN - TELEF. 25679
NEDERLAND

Leyden, June 30th, 1947.

E
100

To the FOREIGN OFFICE,
Information Section,
LONDON.

E 5842
4 JUL

Dear Sirs,

At the British Embassy Information Service in the Hague I read a very interesting stencilled report on the relations between Great-Britain and Palestine, quotation:
DM No R 1347 - Date: 27-3-47.

I should be very thankful if it was possible to obtain a copy of this report, as I am preparing a lecture on this subject.

I hope it is not immodest to ask this. I thank you in anticipation for your willingness, and remain

Yours faithfully,

J. van Vloten

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Reference: **FO 371** / **61781**

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NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

Registry
No. *E5842/46/37*

~~Top Secret.~~
~~Secret.~~
~~Confidential.~~
Restricted:
Open.

Draft. letter to
H. van Vloten,
Meuwsteeg 5,
Gyden,
Holland

[enclosed]

OUT FILE *OC*

19c

101

20 Aug.

Dear Mr. Van Vloten,
I apologise for the delay
in answering your letter of the
30th June, asking for a copy of
a paper on Palestine which I
now enclose.

Future requests of this nature,
should you wish to make them,
could be dealt with more
expeditiously by the British
Press and Information Services
at the Hague. (Lange Voorhout,
29)

H.B. 17/8

Yours sincerely

(Sgd.) H. Beeley.

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Reference: **FO 371** / 61781

477



1947

E

E 5861

103

PALESTINE

4 JUL

Registry Number

E5861/46/31

Political, Conversational

FROM

R.R. Stokes

Refers previous letter of May 18 (E5592/46/31) states had quoted Crossman without first telling him his source omitted, and now transmits text of Crossman's reply.

No.

N/P

Dated

PRS/MIA

Received in Registry

1 July 1947

4 -

Last Paper.

5872.

(Minutes.)

In Mr. Kimms' minutes within ?

References.

attach a draft.

H.B. 87

Private Secretary

87

(Print.)

2 p.p. 40 minute. in Disc. 87.

H.B. 111

(How disposed of.)

(Action completed.)

7/2/47

(Index)

3/1/48

Next Paper.

5863

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Reference: **FO 371** / 61781

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SB

PALESTINE

MR CROSSMAN & JEMAL HUSSEINI

SECRETARY OF STATE. You will remember that Mr. Stokes wrote to you recently reporting Jamal Husseini's version of a conversation which he had had with Mr. Crossman on the motives of British policy in Palestine. Mr. Stokes subsequently wrote a second letter to say that he had informed Mr. Crossman of his earlier report to you, and that Mr. Crossman had asked him to draw your attention to his own (very similar) account of the same conversation with Jemal Husseini. This is contained in Mr. Crossman's book 'Palestine Mission', page 146, as follows:

"Over a really monumental dinner we got down to business. I think that we both said exactly what we thought was true about the attitude and the problems of our two peoples. Finally, over coffee, Jemal summed up his conclusions roughly like this: "I appreciate that your country has been greatly weakened by the war and that you will need American support to keep your Empire together. I fully understand your economic difficulties and your need for the loan. In the immediate future you will have to adopt a policy which ensures American support, and I expect you and your Government for this reason to back the Zionists. In that case I shall return to my old occupation: I am not unhappy as a guerilla fighter. But I shall always hope that when your immediate need of American assistance is over, you will return to your old friendship with the Arabs. Meanwhile, you will not expect us to refuse help from any quarter."

I said that I didn't accept his analysis in full,

but/

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 Reference: **FO 371** / 61781

478

E

E 5863

107

1947

PALESTINE

4 JUL

Registry Number

E 5863/46/31

FROM

U.K. Del
New York

No.

Dated

183

Received in Registry

1 July
4-

Resolution by Committee on death sentences.

Refer #U. of 1846 (E5468/46/31)

Transmit copies of correspondence between U.K. Del and Sec Gen U.N. on the subject of death sentences passed on 3 Feb

Last Paper.

5801

(Minutes.)

References.

by J.O.
U.N. (P.D.) Depo.

213.71
4

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

S.P.O.
✓ July 8

(Action completed.)

E.M. 2/4

(Index.)

ASB
3/21/46

Next Paper.

E 5892

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References:

FO 371

61781

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109

30th June, 1947.

Sir,

In reply to your letter No.801-14-10/AWC of June 23rd enclosing a telegram from the Secretariat of the Special Committee on Palestine concerning certain death sentences passed by the Military Court in Jerusalem, I have been instructed by my Government to communicate to you the following:

His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom have received and taken note of the resolution passed by the United Nations Special Committee on Palestine on the 22nd June in regard to the three death sentences pronounced by the Military Court in Jerusalem on 16th June.

As the Committee have already been informed by the Palestine authorities, the death sentences in question have not yet been confirmed by the General Officer Commanding under Regulations 47 and 48 of the Palestine Defence (Emergency) Regulations 1945 and are therefore still sub judice. If the sentences are confirmed by the General Officer Commanding, it will then be open to the High Commissioner for Palestine to exercise, if he thinks fit, the Royal Prerogative of Pardon delegated to him by His Majesty. It is the invariable practice of His Majesty's Government not to interfere with the High Commissioner's discretion whether or not to exercise this prerogative.

As regards the resolution on the Palestine question adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 15th May, to which the Committee refers, His Majesty's Government interpret this resolution as applying to action calculated to disturb the peace in Palestine; they cannot admit its relevance to the normal processes of the administration of justice there.

His Majesty's Government have informed the High Commissioner for Palestine of the contents of the Secretary-General's communication of 23rd June to His Majesty's Government and of the terms of their reply.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your Excellency's obedient Servant,

His Excellency Mr. Trygve Lie

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479

1947

E

E 5892

5 JUL

PALESTINE

Registry Number } E 5892/46/31
 FROM W.A.G. Matheron
 No. & Mr Beeley
 Dated 75872/154/47
 Received in Registry } July 4

Report on U.N. Special Session.
 Refers, (E5047/46/31) under which received
 copy of report. Now asks to be furnished
 with further copy for the M/C Palestine
 unless already provided by Mr Gillissey.

Last Paper.

5863

(Minutes.)

C.O. will wait for the prints,
 which is being speeded up.

References.

HB. 87/7

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

2 Copies of Print
 on E 5047/46/31
 & W.A.G. Matheron
 P.O.
 (Spec. Pers) July. 17
 + 1 for Mr Beeley

(Action completed.)

Gambury

(Index)

3/11/46

Next Paper.

E 5897

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Reference: FO 371 / 61781



Colonial Office,
Downing Street,
S.W. 1.

July 4, 1947.

75872/154/47.

E 5892

5 J

My dear Beeley,

Under reference E.5047/46/31 of the 25th June we received from the Foreign Office a copy of Sir Alexander Cadogan's despatch no. 160 confidential of the 7th June, enclosing a copy of your report on the Special Assembly. We should be grateful if you would supply a further copy of the despatch and its enclosure to be sent to the High Commissioner for his information, unless, of course, while in New York you provide MacGillivray with a copy of the report.

Yours sincerely,
W.A.C. Mathieson

(W.A.C. Mathieson)

H. BEELEY, ESQ., C.B.E.

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Reference:-

FO 371

61781

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480

1547

E

E 5918

113

PALESTINE

Registry Number } E 5916/46/51
TELEGRAM FROM

No. W. Balfour
Dated Washington
Received in Registry } 3747
2 July
7 July

Death sentence passed on 3 terrorists.
Has received letter from Emanuel Beller asking
intercession over question of release terrorists
under sentence of death for their attack on
Gene Pridon. Stalled in reply to Beller could
not intervene but had complied with request
to forward same to pt. H. G.

Last Paper.

5897

(Minutes.)

References.

By G.O.
v. American Dep.
22-9/7

113 7/7

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8/8.0/
✓ July 8

(Action completed.)

G.P. 670/7

(Index.)

11/24/48

Next Paper.

5928

32008 F.O.P.

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E 5916

E 114

Cypher OTP

7 F U L E S

FROM WASHINGTON TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Mr. Balfour
No. 3747

D. 6.26 p.m. 2nd July 1947.

2nd July 1947.

R. 12.55 a.m. 3rd July 1947.

Repeated to Jerusalem

TTTTT

I have received a letter text of which follows by bag, from representative Emanuel Celler asking me to intervene over question of three terrorists under sentence of death for their attack on Acre Prison.

2. In my reply I have told Mr. Celler that this is not a matter in which I can intervene but that I have complied with his request to forward text of his letter to His Majesty's Government.

JUL 1947

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Reference:-

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481

E

E 5928

PALESTINE

7 JUL 1948

Registry Number

E5928/46/31

FROM

P. Q.

No.

M. Thomas Reid.

Dated

Received in Registry

2 July 7

South Eastern Passes on 3 Jews
M. J. Reid, asked for what resolution he received from d.N. Commission regarding the trial in Palestine of certain terrorists on a capital charge, while the subject of the resolution was sub-judice. M. Thomas Reid quoted text of resolution, and of reply.

Last Paper.

5916

(Minutes.)

References.

1123-7/17

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Action completed.)

G. L. 16/8/48

(Index.)

M. J. Reid
3/11/48

Next Paper.

5930

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Reference:-

FO 371

61781

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EASTERN

E *Enter*

Parliamentary Question

116

Lab.

* 86. Mr. Thomas Reid;—To ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies, what resolution he received from the U.N.O. Commission now sitting in Palestine, regarding the trial in the Palestinian courts of certain terrorists on a capital charge while the subject of the resolution was sub judice; and what action was taken by the Palestinian Government in this matter. [*Wednesday 2nd July.*]

Swindon

ANSWERED - 2 JUL 1947
REPLY ATTACHED.

F.O. ARE NOT ASKED TO ADVISE

E 5928
7 JUL

(160/1)

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117
END

PALESTINE

Terrorists (U.N.O. Commission's Resolution)

80. **Mr. T. Reid** asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies what resolution he received from the U.N.O. Commission now sitting in Palestine, regarding the trial in the Palestinian courts of certain terrorists on a capital charge while the subject of the resolution was *sub judice*; and what action was taken by the Palestinian Government in this matter.

Mr. Creech Jones: The resolution to which my hon. Friend refers was passed by the United Nations Special Committee on Palestine on 22nd June in Jerusalem in the following terms:

"In view of the fact that the majority of the members of the Committee have expressed concern as to the possible unfavourable repercussions that execution of three death sentences pronounced by the Military Court of Jerusalem on 16th June, the day on which the Committee held its first meeting in Jerusalem, might have upon the fulfilment of the task which the General Assembly has entrusted the Committee; and considering the opinion of such members as to the scope of the resolution on the Palestine question adopted on 15th May, 1947, by the General Assembly: the Committee resolves that the Chairman communicate to the Secretary-General of the United Nations a copy of this resolution and of the letter received from the relatives of the condemned persons for transmission to the Mandatory Power."

The Committee's resolution was communicated to His Majesty's Government by the Secretary-General of the United Nations. The reply of His Majesty's Government, which was communicated to the Secretary-General by Sir Alexander Cadogan on 30th June, is as follows:

"His Majesty's Government have received and taken note of the resolution passed by the United Nations Special Committee on Palestine on 22nd June in regard to the three death sentences pronounced by the Military

Court in Jerusalem on 16th June.

(2) As the Committee have already been informed by the Palestine Authorities, the death sentences in question have not yet been confirmed by the General Officer Commanding under Regulations 47 and 48 of Palestine Defence (Emergency) Regulations, 1945, and are, therefore, still *sub judice*. If the sentences are confirmed by the General Officer Commanding, it will then be open to the High Commissioner for Palestine to exercise, if he thinks fit, the Royal Prerogative of Pardon delegated to him by His Majesty. It is the invariable practice of His Majesty's Government not to interfere with the High Commissioner's discretion whether or not to exercise this prerogative.

(3) As regards the resolution on the Palestine question adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 15th May, to which the Committee refers, His Majesty's Government interpret this resolution as applying to action calculated to disturb the peace in Palestine; they cannot admit its relevance to the normal processes of the administration of justice there.

(4) His Majesty's Government have informed the High Commissioner for Palestine of the contents of the Secretary-General's communication of the 23rd June to His Majesty's Government and of the terms of their reply."

As the resolution was not addressed to the Government of Palestine the action of that Government was confined to a letter from the Chief Secretary to the Principal Secretary of the Committee which pointed out that the death sentences in question have not yet been confirmed and that the matter was therefore still *sub judice*. This action was taken it appeared from the terms of the Committee's resolution that they were not aware of the legal position. The Chief Secretary's letter also referred to the mention, in the resolution, of 16th June as the day on which the Committee held its first meeting in Jerusalem and concluded as follows:

"It is, presumably, not suggested that the Court pronounced sentence on this day otherwise than in the ordinary course of judicial process. There would, of course, be no truth in any such suggestion."

RECEIVED IN C.B.
4 JUL 1947
NT TO DEPT.

2 JUL 1947

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